



President Mohammed Morsi, third left, attends Friday prayers in Cairo on Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. Morsi's tough words against Syria's regime in a speech hosted by Syria's top ally Iran brought him a stream of praise from Egyptian supporters and critics alike, lauding him as a new Arab leader that speaks truth to power. (AP Photo/Egyptian Presidency)

Drama in Iran wins Egypt president a bold image

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi's international debut made its biggest splash at home. After he publicly denounced Syria's regime while being hosted by Damascus' top ally Iran, Egyptian supporters and even some critics are lauding him as a new Arab leader that speaks truth to power. That may have been precisely the point. The drama of his Tehran speech boosts

Morsi, an Islamist from the Muslim Brotherhood who became his country's first freely elected president, as he works to entrench his authority in Egypt. His speech also points to new images he is cultivating: The tough, fearless leader who speaks with the voice of a people who chose him. For Islamists, he was a Sunni hero against the Shiites. "He bows in respect for his people, so world leaders bow to him," proclaimed a

photo-montage posted on a Brotherhood-affiliated Facebook page. In one frame, it shows Morsi bowing his head amid crowds of supporters in Tahrir Square. In the other, it shows Morsi sitting at the Nonaligned Movement summit in Tehran on Thursday, with several dignitaries stooped over him to listen as if bowing and hanging on his every word. For critics, the gushing support is reminiscent of the unquestioning praise given

in state media to his predecessor, ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Moreover, they point out that behind the dramatic gestures, Morsi is so far doing little to bring actual dramatic change in Egypt's foreign policy. Morsi is being cautious, reluctant to turn sharply against Egypt's main Mubarak-era allies, Saudi Arabia, the United States and even Israel. That is in part because he is constrained by the realities of the region and by his

need for allies as he tries to address Egypt's domestic woes. Morsi makes his first visit as president to the U.S. in September for the annual U.N. General Assembly session. Washington might have been expected to be unhappy to see the first visit by an Egyptian president to Tehran since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Instead, it joined in the praise.

Continued on Next Page

Israelis say new UN report strengthens Iran warnings



Two Israeli women drink coffee in a shopping mall after collecting their gas mask from a distribution center in Jerusalem. A new U.N. report adds credibility to Israel's warnings about Tehran's nuclear ambitions, Israeli officials said Friday, commenting on findings that could provide ammunition to Israeli calls for military action against Iran's suspect nuclear program at a time when the U.S. and other allies are pressing the Jewish state to hold its fire.

(AP Photo/Bernat Armangué)

AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli officials said on Friday that a new United Nations report adds credibility to their

warnings about Iran, as tensions grow between the Jewish state and its allies over how to tackle Tehran's suspect nuclear program. The report by the U.N.

nuclear agency, which emerged on Thursday, concluded that Iran had stepped up the installation of centrifuges capable of making weapons-grade material in an underground bunker at its Fordo underground facility, safe from most aerial attacks.

The U.N. report also said Iran has effectively shut down inspections of a separate site — the Parchin military complex — suspected of being used for nuclear weapons-related experiments, by shrouding it from spy satellite view with a covering.

It drew rapid criticism from Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, who said Friday the assertion about Parchin "does not make any technical sense." Iran denies the West's claims that it is seeking to develop weapons but its government makes no secret that it sees expansion of its nuclear program as a right. □

Iran urges nonaligned nations to take lead role in Syria crisis

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader said Friday that developing nations have a greater right than the U.S. or NATO to intervene in Syria, signaling an effort to lead a diplomatic push over efforts to resolve the crisis.

The comments came a day after Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi embarrassed the Islamic Republic by blasting its ally, Syria, during a speech at the summit of the Nonaligned Movement, a grouping of some 120 nations.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei met Friday with Syria's prime minister, Wael Nader al-Halqi, and Damascus' delegation to the conference.

"There is a proxy war against the Syrian government, on behalf of some govern-



Syrian Prime Minister Wael Nader al-Halqi, left, talks with Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in Tehran, Iran, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. Iran's supreme leader said Friday that emerging nations have a greater right than the West or United Nations to help resolve Syria's escalating civil war. The comments appeared to reflect a hope by Iran to lead a diplomatic push over the crisis in its close ally Syria through the Nonaligned Movement, the grouping of 120 nations whose annual conference Tehran has hosted this week.

(AP Photo)

ments led by the U.S. and some other powers with the objective of meeting the Zionist regime's (Israeli) in-

terests and inflicting a blow to resistance in the region," Khamenei was quoted as saying on his website. □

Drama in Iran wins Egypt president a bold image

Continued from front

State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell welcomed Morsi's comments on Syria as "very clear and very strong," particularly as they were made in Tehran "to some people who need to hear it there."

Since his inauguration in late July, Morsi has promised a more independent foreign policy, saying Mubarak's close adherence to an American line

region,"

said Michael W. Hanna, an Egypt expert at New York's Century Foundation. "This is the first time that Egypt struck a populist note in terms of its foreign policy in probably decades."

Even one of Morsi's staunchest domestic critics, Mohamed Abu Hamed, tweeted: "To the president: a salute of appreciation for your speech in Tehran summit. I hope you implement the ideas you mentioned." He also won praise from



An Egyptian protester raises a poster showing a half portrait of ousted President Hosni Mubarak, right, and Egyptian Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, left, during a protest in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. Arabic reads "Mohammed Morsi Mubarak".

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

made Egypt ineffectual and irrelevant in the Middle East. Morsi's supporters touted his speech as an example of his new approach.

His flair in Tehran was certainly a break from the tone of Mubarak's foreign policy, which usually saw dry repetitions of long-held stances and shunned drama.

In contrast, Morsi swept in to visit a longtime rival, eagerly shook the Iranian president's hand, then gave a hearty call for world support of Syria's rebels against an "oppressive regime that has lost its legitimacy."

"People haven't heard an Egyptian leader speaking in this fashion, speaking out a foreign policy position that struck a chord with the

ultraconservative Sunnis in Egypt who are key allies for Morsi and who only days earlier were loudly denouncing his trip to Shiite majority Iran. The ultraconservative Salafis despite Shiites as heretics.

In his speech, Morsi hit notes that were music to the Salafi ears. He kicked off the address with a salute to Abu Bakr and Omar, the companions of the Prophet Muhammad and his first successors. Mentioning them was seen as an implicit snub to Iran: Sunnis revere them, but Shiites hate them because they are seen as cheating the man they see as the rightful successor, Ali. One prominent Egyptian Salafi cleric praised Morsi for affirming Egypt's Sunni identity. □

Wildfire rages near Spanish resort city of Marbella

HAROLD HECKLE

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A wildfire fanned by strong winds devoured hillsides around the wealthy Mediterranean resort city of Marbella in Spain on Friday. At least one person died, two sustained burns and more than 4,000 others were forced to evacuate their homes. A dry winter followed by a scorching hot summer has left much of southern Spain tinder dry and susceptible to fires. About 1,500 square kilometers (580 square miles) of land in Spain has burned in nearly 12,000 wildfires so far this year. Other European nations, including Greece, Portugal and Bosnia, also have faced blazes spawned by similar conditions. In Spain, regional Interior Ministry official Jose Luis Ruiz Espejo said the latest fire started outside the



A firefighter works amid smoke from a raging forest fire in Ojen, southern Spain, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. Spanish officials say some 4,000 people have been evacuated from their houses as a wildfire abetted by strong winds spread rapidly through hills around the popular southern tourist city of Marbella.

(AP Photo/Sergio Torres)

mountainside town of Coin, northeast of Marbella, and that authorities suspect arson as the cause.

All the residents of the nearby town of Ojen were forced to evacuate as flames swept through their valley. Most spent much of the night sheltered in sports centers in Marbella.

Fernando Fernandez, mayor of the popular white-washed hillside tourist destination town of Mijas, said many of its residents had been evacuated, but strong east winds had "fortunately for us, swept the fire westwards, toward Marbella."

Andalucia's regional government said a 78-year-old British man's charred body was found Friday "in a tool shed" near Ojen. Local police found the body while searching through the burnt embers of a house, the statement said. □

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Romney meets Jindal to survey damage to Gulf

Associated Press

JEAN LAFITTE, Louisiana (AP) — Mitt Romney visited America's hurricane-battered Gulf region Monday in an attempt to project an aura of leadership, a day after accepting the Republican nomination to challenge President Barack Obama in this year's election.

Romney met up with Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal south of New Orleans, his motorcade passing by flooded homes and submerged gas stations as residents stood in water where there should have been front lawns. The two talked about some of the challenges facing the surrounding community, which relies on fishing for its livelihood. "I'm here to learn and obvi-

ously draw some attention to what's going on here," Romney said. "So that people around the country know that people down here need help."

Romney shook up his itinerary to get to Louisiana and inspect Hurricane Isaac's damage. It was the kind of trip better associated with a president than a presidential candidate — Romney has no authority to direct help — but he did draw attention to the plight of victims there. The White House offered no complaints. Romney is locked in a tight race as Republicans have wrapped up their convention and Democrats prepare for theirs next week. Hurricane Isaac forced the Republicans to cancel the first day of their convention.

Isaac left a wake of misery in Louisiana, with dozens of neighborhoods under

deep flood waters and more than 800,000 people without power. While New

re-election, made plans to visit the hurricane-battered Gulf region Monday.

Obama further underscored his record as commander in chief by scheduling a visit with troops in Texas on Friday, exactly two years after declaring the end of the U.S. combat mission in Iraq.

Democrats gather in Charlotte, North Carolina, next week for Obama's convention. They hope the convention will, at a minimum, neutralize any Republican bounce out of their convention in Tampa. Obama narrowly won North Carolina in 2008 and scheduled his 2012 convention there in hopes of repeating the unexpected feat. Romney's path to victory is severely complicated unless he puts the state back in the Republican column.

In the lead-up to his convention, Obama was campaigning this weekend in Iowa and Colorado, before surveying storm damage in Louisiana on Monday. He canceled a scheduled stop in Cleveland to go to the Gulf. □



Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney left, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, center, greet residents displaced by Isaac in Lafitte, La., Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. Isaac is now a tropical depression, with the center on track to cross Arkansas on Friday and southern Missouri on Friday night, spreading rain through the regions.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Orleans was spared major damage, the storm walloped surrounding suburbs, topping smaller levees with days of rain and forcing more than 4,000 from their homes.

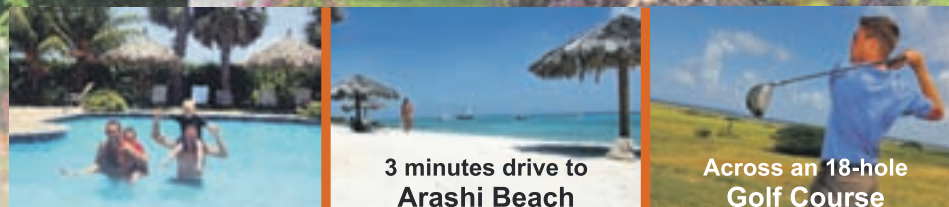
Meanwhile, Obama, intent on flexing the powers of the presidency in pursuit of

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Publisher of Seal's bin Laden book refuses to back down

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The publisher of an insider account of the Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden said Friday it will begin public sales next week despite a Pentagon warning of possible legal action against the book's author and unspecified associates.

Before the Pentagon's warning, the publisher had moved up publication to Sept. 4 from Sept. 11, saying that it was "important to put 'No Easy Day' on sale and let the book speak for itself."

"At this time, we see no reason to change our plans," Christine Ball, a spokeswoman for the publisher, Penguin Group (USA)'s Dutton imprint, said in a statement.

Pre-orders for the book have catapulted it to No. 1 on Amazon's best-seller list, displacing the erotic trilogy "Fifty Shades of Grey." An initial print run of 200,000 has been increased to 575,000 copies. It was highly unlikely that the government would try to halt publication of the book itself, considering that a limited number of advance copies are already in the public domain and media reports have summarized the book's contents.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said the book's author, ex-SEAL Matt Bissonnette, was in violation of two non-disclosure agreements that he signed in 2007 by failing to submit the book for an official security review before it was published. Bissonnette's lawyer disputed this Friday, saying he believes the decorated former SEAL has "earned the right to tell his story." □

Ex-Marine kills 2, self in rampage at supermarket

ALEX KATZ

KATIE ZEZIMA

Associated Press

OLD BRIDGE, New Jersey

(AP) — An ex-Marine who had suffered from depression and once tweeted about killing “everyone I see” opened fire in camouflage gear at a supermarket, gunning down two co-workers before he killed himself, authorities said. Terence Tyler, 23, left his night clerk shift at a Pathmark store in Old Bridge Township around 3:30 a.m., drove off and returned 20 minutes later to the closed store with a handgun and an assault rifle similar to an AK-47, Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said. About 12 to 14 workers were still there, inputting new prices into the computer.

Tyler fired more than 16 rounds from his rifle — shooting at an employee standing outside and firing as he entered the store, blowing out the front windows, authorities said. He shot at five other workers in an aisle, killing Christina LoBrutto, 18, and Bryan Breen, 24, Kaplan said. “I do not believe that they were specifically targeted.



Officials investigate the scene of a shooting at a Pathmark grocery store in Old Bridge, N.J., Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. At least three people have died in the shooting. A law enforcement official briefed on the shooting says the person believed to be the shooter is among the dead.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

sion and had never gotten over his mother's death; the shooting happened around the five-year anniversary of her death, they said. And on a Twitter account in 2009, with a photograph identified by family members as Tyler, a post talks about hating Marine life. “I’m starting to see why ppl go on killin sprees,” he wrote in October 2009, using the handle (at)Tylerbkstyle. And these (obscenity) are reeeeeeeally pushin my kill everyone I see button.” At the top of Tyler’s Facebook page reads the motto, “Be optimistic. Kaplan and police walked through the shooting scene at the supermarket Friday morning, with two long windows in the front completely shot through. □

Maine case worker blames Baby\ sitter for baby’s death

DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Maine’s child welfare agency is placing blame for a baby’s death on the mother of a 10-year-old accused of killing her, saying the mother shouldn’t have left the infant with the girl and the baby’s death was “a result of your neglect.”

A case worker faulted the sitter for leaving the baby in her 10-year-old daughter’s bedroom in the central Maine town of Fairfield. In a letter, the case worker said the girl had a behavior disorder that made her unsuitable for caring for the infant.

The 10-year-old girl was charged this week with manslaughter in the death of 3-month-old Brooklyn Foss-Greenaway of Clinton in a case that shocked the state because of the homicide suspect’s tender age.

The mother, who has not been charged, declined to speak to The Associated Press on Friday. She referred the AP to her lawyer. No one answered her lawyer’s office phone during business hours.

A roommate who was in the Fairfield house early on July 8 when Brooklyn died told the AP that the baby was sleeping in the girl’s room and that she heard occasional crying from the bedroom before chaos erupted.

Ashley Tenney said she was awakened by a commotion and went upstairs to see a terrified look on the girl’s face as the mother performed CPR on the baby. □

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For police and protesters, a quieter RNC convention

COLIN MOYNIHAN

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TAMPA, Fla. — By the time the Republican National Convention ended, no windows had been broken, no tear gas had clouded the air and the arrest tally stood at four. The lack of disturbances stood in stark contrast to the last three Republican conventions, when street battles between the police and protesters resulted in numerous arrests and prompted a flurry of court fights about police actions. Dissidents this week did manage to trigger a few disruptions inside the Tampa Bay Times Forum, where the convention took place, interrupting the speeches of Mitt Romney and Rep. Paul D. Ryan. But outside

the hall, both the police and protesters avoided behavior that had led to conflicts at previous conventions. Protesters, including bands of anarchists, were occasionally defiant but entirely peaceful. And the police responded to minor infractions with flexibility rather than aggression. The detente not only made life in downtown Tampa less daunting, but gave two traditionally adversarial groups a chance to redefine their relationship. “The organizers did a good job, the protesters did a good job, so did the leaders of law enforcement and the troops under them,” said Amos Miers, a spokesman for a protest group, resist RNC. “Everyone maintained a sense of discipline

and order.”

At the three prior Republican gatherings, starting with Philadelphia in 2000, there were public disturbances and lawsuits, with

the police there and in Minneapolis arrested more than 800 people while discharging tear gas and firing foam and plastic bullets. Four years earlier in New

police officers in Tampa wearing helmets and padded vests, and at one point a pickup truck with a powerful sound cannon was deployed. But the police also appeared to cultivate a friendly relationship with protesters, often greeting them on sidewalks and at one point dropping off water and fruit at an encampment of tents and tarps where protesters were sleeping.

And when groups of protesters sought to march down streets that had been blocked by officers, commanders decided on several occasions to allow the marchers to proceed.

The decision to sometimes bend was intentional, the Tampa police chief, Jane Castor, told reporters Wednesday night as protesters milled outside an entrance to the convention forum.

“We’re allowing people to express themselves in any way, shape or form they think is necessary as long as it doesn’t cross over into criminal behavior,” she said. □



Police officers and protesters standoff during a demonstration near the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., Aug 30, 2012. The lack of confrontations in Tampa this week between protesters and police was a far cry from the last few Republican conventions, which saw hundreds of arrests and dozens of lawsuits against the police. (Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

the police arresting large numbers of people and many protesters complaining that they were being rounded up without justification.

At the 2008 convention in St. Paul, Minn., for instance,

the number of arrests was about 1,800, and hundreds of people sued the city saying they were wrongly arrested, then held for days in deplorable conditions.

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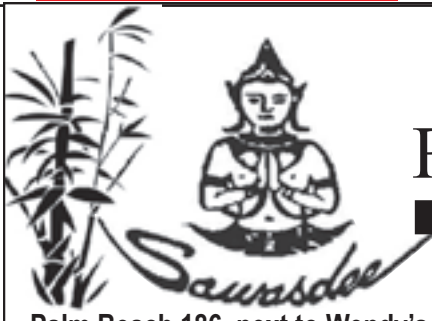
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Romney aides scratch their heads over Eastwood's speech

MICHAEL BARBARO

JEREMY W. PETERS

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TAMPA, Fla. — Clint Eastwood's rambling and off-

appearance was cleared by at least two of Romney's top advisers, Russ Schriefer and Stuart Stevens. This person said that

current president and the promise of the future one." Eastwood delivered one of the more unusual moments in Republican convention history — a speech in which he pretended to have a sarcasm-filled conversation with President Barack Obama sitting by his side in an empty chair. Initially, there were no plans for Eastwood to take a chair onstage as a prop. But at the last minute, the actor asked the production staff

backstage if he could use one but did not explain why.

"The prop person probably thought he was going to sit in it," a senior aide said.

"Mr. President, how do you handle promises that you made when you were running for election?" the one-time Dirty Harry said, mumbling to a befuddled crowd of thousands in the convention hall and millions of television viewers.

As thousands of "OMG!"

tweets started flying, Eastwood, 82, asked the invisible Obama why he had not closed the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"What do you mean, shut up?" he said, continuing to talk to his imaginary companion. A moment later, he stopped again, saying, "What do you want me to tell Mr. Romney?"

"I can't tell him that. He can't do that to himself," Eastwood said. "You're getting as bad as Biden." □



Actor Clint Eastwood gestures while speaking to delegates during the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

color endorsement of Mitt Romney on Thursday night seemed to startle and unsettle even the candidate's own top aides, several of whom made a point of distancing themselves from the decision to put him onstage without a polished script.

"Not me," said an exasperated-looking senior adviser, when asked who was responsible for Eastwood's speech. In late-night interviews, aides variously called the speech "strange" and "weird." One described it as "theater of the absurd." Finger-pointing quickly ensued, suggesting real displeasure and even confusion over the handling of Eastwood's performance, which was kept secret until the last minute and offered an off-key message on the night that Romney accepted the Republican presidential nomination.

A senior Republican involved in convention planning said that Eastwood's

there had been no rehearsal, to the surprise of the rest of the campaign team. But another adviser said that several top aides had reviewed talking points given to Eastwood, which the campaign had discussed with the actor as recently as a few hours before his appearance. Eastwood, however, delivered those points in a theatrical, and at times crass, way that caught Romney aides off guard, this person said. Eastwood even ignored warnings that he had exceeded his time.

Stevens, in an interview, said he would not discuss internal decision-making but described Eastwood's remarks as improvised.

"He spoke from the heart with a classic improv sketch which everyone at the convention loved," Stevens said.

He called it "an honor that a great American icon would come and talk about the failure of the

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Syria:

Rebel unit of army defectors launch offensive in Aleppo

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A rebel unit of army defectors launched a major offensive against security facilities in Syria's largest city of Aleppo, and anti-regime forces targeted air bases to try to reduce the military threat from the skies, activists said Friday.

The coordinated attacks by the Brigade of Free Syrians pointed to a higher-than-usual degree of planning by the rebels, suggesting that President Bashar Assad's opponents are becoming more brazen as the civil war deepens.

The Local Coordination Committees, an activist group that monitors violence and rights abuses in Syria, said rebels shot down a helicopter in the town of Sarmeen, in the north-eastern province of Idlib. An activist in the area also reported a helicopter was downed.

The reports could not be independently verified, but if confirmed, it would be

the second such aircraft to be downed by rebels this week. One helicopter was downed in Damascus on Monday.

Nearly 18 months into the uprising against Assad that has become a civil war with more than 20,000 people estimated to have been killed, the International Red Cross painted a grim

picture of life in Syria. It said the humanitarian needs of civilians were rising and medical care was becoming more and more scarce. "People fear for their lives every minute of the day," said Marianne Gasser, the head of the ICRC delegation in Syria, in a report released in Geneva.

"Every day, dozens of peo-

ple are killed in the fighting, and increasing numbers of people succumb to their wounds, unable to obtain medical care because of the fighting and the lack of medical supplies, or simply because medical care is not available in their areas," she said.

The three coordinated attacks in the northern city of Aleppo began before midnight Thursday and ended Friday morning — two days after Assad conceded that his forces have been unable to quell the rebellion. Weeks of intense bombardment by the Syrian military, including airstrikes and artillery shelling, have failed to dislodge the rebels. Instead, it seems to have emboldened them.

Assad's military, the backbone of his 12-year rule, is bogged down in a stalemate for control of Aleppo and unable to crush the rebels in the capital of Damascus and its suburbs. It also is fighting smaller-scale battles in the south and east.

Dubbed "Northern Volcano," the rebel offensive in Aleppo targeted an artillery training school, a compound of the feared air force intelligence, and a large army checkpoint, according to Mohammed Saeed, an activist based in the city, which is Syria's commercial capital. The offensive will focus on specific military and intelligence targets in Aleppo and the surrounding province of the same name, he added.

The three simultaneous attacks left an unspecified number of troops dead or wounded and badly damaged the top floor of the main, two-story building in the air force intelligence compound, Saeed said via Skype.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, also said rebels killed and wounded regime forces at an air force compound in Aleppo's Zahraa neighborhood, but had no details on the other two attacks reported by Saeed. □



This citizen journalism image provided by Shaam News Network SNN, taken on Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, purports to show anti-Assad protestors in Aleppo, Syria. Syrian rebels have begun a major operation in the Aleppo region, aiming to strike at security compounds and bases around Syria's largest city, activists said Friday. It would be evidence that weeks of intense bombardments by the Syrian military, including airstrikes, have failed to dislodge the rebels. Instead, fighting rages across the country in a civil war that shows no sign of ending soon.

(AP Photo/Sham News Network, SNN)

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Clinton focuses on China in South Pacific visit



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, center, speaks with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, left, and Cook Island Prime Minister Henry Puna, right, while posing for the family photo during the Pacific Island Forum Post-Forum Dialogue in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012.

(AP Photo/Jim Watson)

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press
RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday pledged renewed American commitment to security in the Asia-Pacific, where tensions are rising between China and its smaller neighbors over territorial disputes and many nations face threats from climate change.

Speaking at a meeting of leaders of South Pacific island nations, Clinton said the United States would not abandon its long history of protecting maritime commerce in the region and serving as a counterbalance to domination by any particular world power.

"We have underwritten the security that has made it possible for the people of this region to trade and travel freely," she said, noting nearly a century of American military presence in the Asia-Pacific.

"We have consistently protected the Pacific sea lanes through which a great deal of the world's commerce passes. And now we look to the Pacific nations in a spirit of partnership for your leadership on some of the most urgent and complex issues of our time."

"All of us have an interest in maintaining peace and security in the Pacific," Clinton said. "Hundreds of U.S. vessels, from our Navy

and Coast Guard ships as well as our fishing vessels, sail these waters. We know how important the ocean and its resources are to your economic development, food security and traditional culture."

Clinton, the first secretary of state to participate in the Pacific Island Forum and the first to visit the sprawling but sparsely populated Cook Islands, said the U.S.

would increase its investments in the Pacific and enhance security cooperation to maintain free trade and combat crime, such as human trafficking and illegal fishing, in the ocean.

She also announced a new contribution of more than \$32 million for programs throughout the region aimed at boosting economic development while protecting biodiver-

sity in the face of rising waters attributed to climate change. The U.S. already spends \$330 million a year.

Clinton's visit to the main island, population 10,000, in the remote Cook chain has created a buzz of excitement and she was welcomed on arrival by dozens of colorfully clad local traditional dancers and dignitaries amid lots of drumming.

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PARANORMAN 3D	daily: 11:45	PG
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STEP UP REVOLUTION 3D	SP daily: 5:30 6:30	PG-13
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HOPE SPRINGS	daily: 4:15 2:00	PG-13
matinee: 12:00		
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Officials declare Nieto final winner in Mexico vote

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's highest electoral authority declared Friday that Enrique Pena Nieto was the legitimate winner of the country's July 1 presidential election, formally opening the transition to a new government despite continuing claims of fraud by the second-place candidate of the left.

The Federal Electoral Tribunal said leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had failed to prove claims that vote-buying had affected the results of the vote returning Mexico's former autocratic ruling party to the country's highest office after a 12-year absence.

Lopez Obrador told reporters Friday morning that he refused to recognize the results of the election and was calling for a peaceful protest that he described

as "civil disobedience" on Sept. 9 in the Zocalo, the historic plaza in the heart of downtown Mexico City.

Lopez Obrador said the electoral tribunal made an illegitimate ruling Thursday evening when it rejected



Police officers stand guard as people demonstrate outside the Federal Electoral Tribunal in Mexico City, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. Mexico's highest electoral authority declared Friday that Enrique Pena Nieto was the legitimate winner of the country's July 1 presidential election, formally opening the transition to a new government despite continuing claims of fraud by the second-place candidate of the left and his supporters. The banners read in Spanish: "TRIFE, traitor to the nation," left, and "We don't want you Pena."

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

He launched street demonstrations that paralyzed central Mexico City after he lost the 2006 vote, but widespread protests appear far less likely this time.

the leftist's allegations of vote-buying and other campaign violations in favor of Pena Nieto, the candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

The seven electoral magistrates are nominated by Mexico's Supreme Court and confirmed by Congress and are widely seen as credible and non-partisan, although Lopez Obrador has alleged that several members were based in favor of the PRI.

"I am telling the people of Mexico that I cannot accept the judgment of the electoral tribunal that declared the presidential election valid," Lopez Obrador told a news conference. "The elections were not clean, free and genuine. As a result, I will not recognize an illegitimate power that's emerged as a result of vote-buying and other grave violations of the constitution and the law." Lopez Obrador, a popular former mayor of Mexico City, was able to call hundreds of thousands into the streets for campaign rallies, and he retains a large and fervent base

of support in the capital. But Pena Nieto's margin of more than 3 million votes was far wider than the few hundred thousand votes that cost Lopez Obrador the last presidential vote, and many opponents' outrage at Pena Nieto's win appears to have largely faded since the July 1 vote. He said he wants the protest to respect the law, and he did not indicate that there would be a repeat of the blockades he launched in 2006.

By Friday afternoon, there were a few scattered protests around the capital by Lopez Obrador sympathizers, including a brief blockade of highway toll booths by a group of students, but little evidence of widespread mobilization.

Confirmation of the PRI's victory returns the party to Mexico's highest office, which it held without interruption from 1929 to 2000. □

Venezuela election council pulls violent ad off air

JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan electoral officials have ordered off the air a political ad that depicts the murder of a young man to highlight concerns about crime.

The opposition party Popular Will, which paid for the television ad, on Thursday criticized the decision by the National Electoral Council, calling it a violation of free speech. The party supports Henrique Capriles,

who is running against President Hugo Chavez in the country's Oct. 7 election. The ad shows a young man who is set to graduate from university, and his mother filled with joy seeing him at their home in a poor neighborhood. Then the young man goes out into the street and is gunned down.

The video does not actually show the man being shot, but shows his mother's horrified reaction as she watches from the window, then her cup shattering and spill-

ing coffee on the floor. Afterward, as the woman holds her son's body in her arms in the street, the slogan "Security is the way" flashes on the screen.

The ad can be seen on the party's YouTube channel: <http://youtu.be/UKDsZlti-YYY>.

Electoral council president Tibisay Lucena announced the decision on Wednesday, saying the ad apparently violates electoral law and was taken off the air as a precautionary measure

while officials carry out a probe.

Lucena insisted the electoral council is not acting as a censor, but simply upholding campaign rules.

Party leader Carlos Vecchio told reporters that the ad "reflects the reality of the country." He called it a matter of free speech and accused the electoral council of acting as a "censor."

Chavez's campaign manager, Jorge Rodriguez, said the advertisement violates

a broadcast law that includes provisions regulating violent content.

Capriles has made crime a top issue in the campaign and has pledged to improve police forces and reduce violence.

Venezuela's official murder rate stood at 50 per 100,000 people last year, making it one of the most violent countries in Latin America and the world. Murder rates have more than doubled since 1998, when Chavez was first elected. □

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Spain's Bankia to receive immediate financial injection

CIARAN GILES
HAROLD HECKLE
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The Spanish government will immediately inject financial aid into Bankia after the troubled lender announced losses of €4.4 billion (\$5.6 billion) in the first half of the year, authorities said Friday. The money will come from the fund for the orderly restructuring of banks, or FROB, a bank rescue fund set up to help Spain's deeply troubled financial sector. The fund said in a statement late Friday that it planned to transfer capital into Bankia SA and its parent group Banco Financiero y de Ahorros SA with immediate effect after "the accounts declared significant losses." The fund did not specify



Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy reacts during a joint news conference with French President Francois Hollande at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid Thursday Aug. 30, 2012. Hollande met Rajoy for talks on Spain's economic crisis and the future of the euro. Authorities said Friday the Spanish government will immediately inject financial aid into Bankia after the troubled lender announced losses of €4.4 billion (\$5.6 billion) in the first half of the year.

(AP Photo/Paul White)

how much it would inject into Bankia. But it said the money was an advance loan prior to Spain receiving a package of up to €100 billion (\$126.1 billion)

from other eurozone countries so that it can bail out all of its troubled banks.

Bankia was nationalized in May and has called for €24 billion (\$30.3 billion) in public aid. At its Friday cabinet meeting, Spain's government approved a new package of measures to create a "bad bank" to handle the country's toxic property investments and give the central bank more powers to shut down troubled lenders. The reform is the fifth such package Spain has introduced since its financial difficulties began in 2008. Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said the new "bad bank" would be up and running by the end of November and will be controlled by the central bank but would also involve the private sector. He said the measure was chiefly aimed at unburdening banks of their bad investments so they can concentrate on managing people's savings and investments and get credit

flowing again into the ailing economy. The bad bank would be able to bring some of the real estate assets — such as land which had been destined for construction and unsold houses — back onto the market.

The reform comes as Spain battles to convince investors it can handle its finances and avoid following Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Cyprus in requesting a government bailout. Spain's banks have an estimated €184 billion (\$232 billion) in problematic real estate loans and investments following the collapse of the country's property market in 2008. Concerns about the sector pushed Spain in June to accept a €100 billion loan from the other 16 eurozone countries to spend on rescuing banks. De Guindos gave no indication as to how much or what type of toxic assets the new bank would take on or at what discount they would be bought from the troubled banks. □

Official:

Permanent Euro bailout fund set for Oct

VIENNA (AP) — The designated head of Europe's planned new €500 billion (\$626.54 billion) bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism, says he expects it to be up and running by October — providing a German high court rules that it is in line with that country's constitution. Klaus Regling — current head of the existing bailout fund for the 17 countries that use the euro, the European Financial Stability Facility — told reporters in the Tyrolean town of Alpbach that the ESM's main role is to lend money to struggling eurozone nations. Speculation that ESM needs a banking license to boost its firepower is not a

major issue, he said.

Germany's Constitutional

Court is expected to make a ruling on Sept. 12. □

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Russian tycoon Abramovich wins London court battle



In this Jan. 26, 2000 file photo, Russian tycoons Boris Berezovsky, left, and Roman Abramovich, walk together in Moscow, Russia. The self-exiled Berezovsky lost his multibillion-dollar legal battle against fellow mogul Abramovich on Friday after a British judge ruled that he didn't tell the truth in the clash over vast oil wealth. (AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

**ROBERT BARR
SYLVIA HUI**

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Self-exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky lost his multibillion-dollar legal battle against fellow Russian mogul Roman Abramovich on Friday after a British judge ruled that he didn't tell the truth in the clash over vast oil wealth.

The case in London's High Court sparked broad interest because of its focus on the two oligarchs' personal and business relationship in the chaotic days of post-Soviet Russia. The months of testimony included juicy details about their rise to riches, their jet-set lifestyles on yachts and in luxury hotels, and allegations of "gangster" behavior.

The 64-year-old Berezovsky, a former Kremlin power broker who fell out with Russian President Vladimir Putin, alleged that Abramovich had betrayed and intimidated him into selling his oil stakes vastly beneath their true value, and sold his gas shares without his consent. Berezovsky had sought more than \$5.6 billion in damages.

Abramovich had denied all the charges.

On Friday, Judge Elizabeth Gloster scathingly dismissed Berezovsky's case, calling him "an unimpressive, and inherently unreliable, witness, who regarded truth as a transitory, flexible concept, which could be molded to suit his

current purposes."

"I regret to say that the bottom line of my analysis of Mr. Berezovsky's credibility is that he would have said almost anything to support his case," Gloster said in a 38-page summary of her

judgment.

In contrast, she found the 45-year-old Abramovich, the owner of Chelsea football club, to be "a truthful, and on the whole reliable, witness."

Berezovsky, who had al-

leged blackmail and breach of contract, shook his head in court Friday as his defeat became clear. Abramovich did not attend. Outside the court, Berezovsky accused Gloster of rewriting Russian history.

Russian: no Pussy Riot ties to murders

MANSUR MIROVALEV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A university instructor on Friday confessed to killing two women in an apartment where a message demanding freedom for jailed members of the Pussy Riot band was scrawled on the wall, news reports said.

The killing in the city of Kazan of a 76-year-old woman and her 38-year-old daughter attracted nationwide attention because of the Pussy Riot connection. Three members of the feminist punk band were sentenced two weeks ago to two years in prison in a politically charged case.

At a court arraignment, 38-year-old suspect Igor Danilevsky said "the killing



Igor Danilevsky, confessed to killing two women, speaks to his mother in a court as he appears in the court after being detained on Thursday, in Kazan, about 700 kilometers (450 miles) east of Moscow, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. A 38-year-old university professor, Igor Danilevsky, was detained Thursday in Kazan, Russia's Investigative Committee said on Friday. It said Danilevsky wrote "Free Pussy Riot" on a wall in the victims' blood because he wanted the deaths of the 38-year-old woman he dated and her mother, 76, to appear as if they were a "ritual killing."

(AP Photo/Nikolay Alexandrov)

took place in a passion ... I confess to everything," the state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

Russia's Investigative Committee said Danilevsky wrote "Free Pussy Riot" on a wall in the victims' blood because he wanted to mislead investigators. He had dated the younger victim, the committee said.

The arrest and sentencing of the Pussy Riot members was one of Russia's most divisive cases of recent years, pitting adherents of President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Orthodox Church against opposition supporters.

They were convicted of hooliganism based on religious hatred for performing a "punk prayer" in Moscow's main cathedral entreating the Virgin Mary to save Russia from Putin. The jailed band members' attorney had called the killing of the two women "either a horrendous provocation or a psychopathic" case. □

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Great news for Arikok National Park, the schoolchildren on Aruba, and anybody else who wants to learn about our island's nature! In collaboration with enthusiastic students of the IPA, our department of Research and Education has developed an educational package about edible and medicinal plants of Aruba. The latter is the first of a se-

ries of packages that the park will offer to teachers of primary schools.

The release of the packages fits into the mission and vision of the park to create more respect for and understanding and awareness of the natural environment amongst visitors and locals.

At the moment the package will be used as a pilot by motivated teachers from different primary schools on the island. After this, Arikok will receive feedback in order to finalize the product which will then be offered for use.

We thank all the teachers that are willing to run the pilot educational package and we look forward to a successful and sustainable cooperation.

For more information please contact us at 585-1234, or at www.arikoknationalpark.org. □



At the Aruba Beach Club:

Loyal visitors from two continents honored by ATA!



Recently a group of loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba between ten-and-twenty consecutive years.

All the honorees are members of Aruba Beach Club and have been enjoying the island every year.

The honorees were:

1. Carmen Cecilia Lugo Cobis of Maracaibo, Venezuela, as Distinguished Visitor.
2. Rossana Brozzi of Parma, Italy, as Distinguished Visitor.
3. Carlos L. Onate of Carabobo, Venezuela, as Distinguished Visitor.
4. Sirio Brozzi and Nelsy Rodriguez de Brozzias of Parma, Italy, as Goodwill Ambassadors.
5. Antonio Calcano Andrade of Miranda, Venezuela, as Goodwill Ambassador.
6. Nazir Dewji of Siena, Italy, as Distinguished Visitor.
7. Alberto and Antonietta de Bortoneas of Caracas, Venezuela, as Goodwill Ambassadors.

The certificates were present-



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The Blue Lobster

ed by Darline S. de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, with Activities Coordinator Gibson, who conducted the ceremony held at Aruba Beach Club.

The main reasons they return Aruba is because they consider Aruba to be the Happy Island, the great weather, white sand beaches and the local food. □

Loyal visitors honored by ATA at Playa Linda Beach Resort!



Recently a group of loyal visitors were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba between ten-and-twenty consecutive years.

All the honorees are members of Playa Linda Beach Resort and have been enjoying the island every year. The honorees were:

1. Allan and Claire Bordeau of Ontario, Canada, as Distinguished Visitors.
2. Hector and Claret de Tarre of Zulia, Venezuela, as Goodwill Ambassadors.
3. Eduardo J. Mathison

and Maria D. Fuemayor de Mathison of Miranda, Venezuela, as Goodwill Ambassadors. The certificates were presented by Darline S. de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with wedding coordinator Mignon Aalconcierge, who conducted the ceremony held at Playa Linda Beach Resort.



Top reasons for returning sets, Beautiful Blue Ocean, provided by the honorees and the friendly Aruban Hospitality. □

Aruhiba Cigars, Aruba's only hand rolled cigars!

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.

For a group or private tour, call 586 0347 - 593 6177 or send them an email at aruhibacigars@gmail.com

At Playa Linda Beach Resort

Carlos Lozano Rivas honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority!



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring Carlos Lozano Rivas of Valencia, Venezuela, as our latest Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. Mr. Rivas is a happy member of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and enjoys our island every year! The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest who visit Aruba for 10-and-20 or more consecutive years. Darline de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Mignon Adl, Concierge Coordinator, conducted the honoring ceremony. Top reasons for returning provided by Mr. Rivas were the Fantastic Sunset, Beautiful Blue Ocean, Friendly Aruban Hospitality and local Restaurants. □

American Style Burgers Rule!!

The inspiration for a good American style hamburger comes right from the owners backyard grill. Aaron Walisever – before his 'retirement' – was known as "The King of Fireplaces & Grills" in New England. Moving to Aruba from Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife Rosie was a positive move all around – but their search for a good burger and fries didn't stretch far from home. It was this reason that Rosie & Aaron opened 5 Burgers Aruba! As the name implies, there are 5 specialty burgers offered including a mammoth Western Burger, a tasty melted Gouda Burger, a Farmers Burger complete with a fried egg. For the very hungry, a 3 patty Man Burger and to round out the specials – a zesty chicken breast with special sauce is also available.

Of course, hamburgers and cheeseburgers – small and regular sized are also on the menu. But the big surprise is the hand-cut daily – french fries – from select Idaho potatoes and hand-made onion rings! Cooking these in peanut oil leaves the pure potato flavor in the fry. A favorite way to enjoy fries is with vinegar! These complement any meal ordered at 5 Burgers! Burgers are pressed daily and are U.S.D.A. choice beef only and lightly seasoned with a special spice blend. They can even satisfy you if you desire a veggie burger. Toppings are encouraged and available at no additional charge – raw or grilled onions & mushrooms, lettuce, tomato, BBQ sauce and many more tasty items. Brand new items to the menu include a hand-made beef empanada and chicken bites. 5 Burgers Aruba is open from Noon to 10-ish daily. Delivery is available to your pool or hotel room! They are located behind Senor Frogs and across from the Radisson Hotel. Come by and enjoy a great burger experience. Rosie & Aaron are often on site – making sure that you are happy with your burger experience! Call 5 BURGERS ARUBA at 586-3904. □





Serbia's Novak Djokovic serves to Brazil's Rogerio Dutra Silva in the third round of play at the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, in New York.
Associated Press

Roddick extends career with easy victory at Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
Associated Press

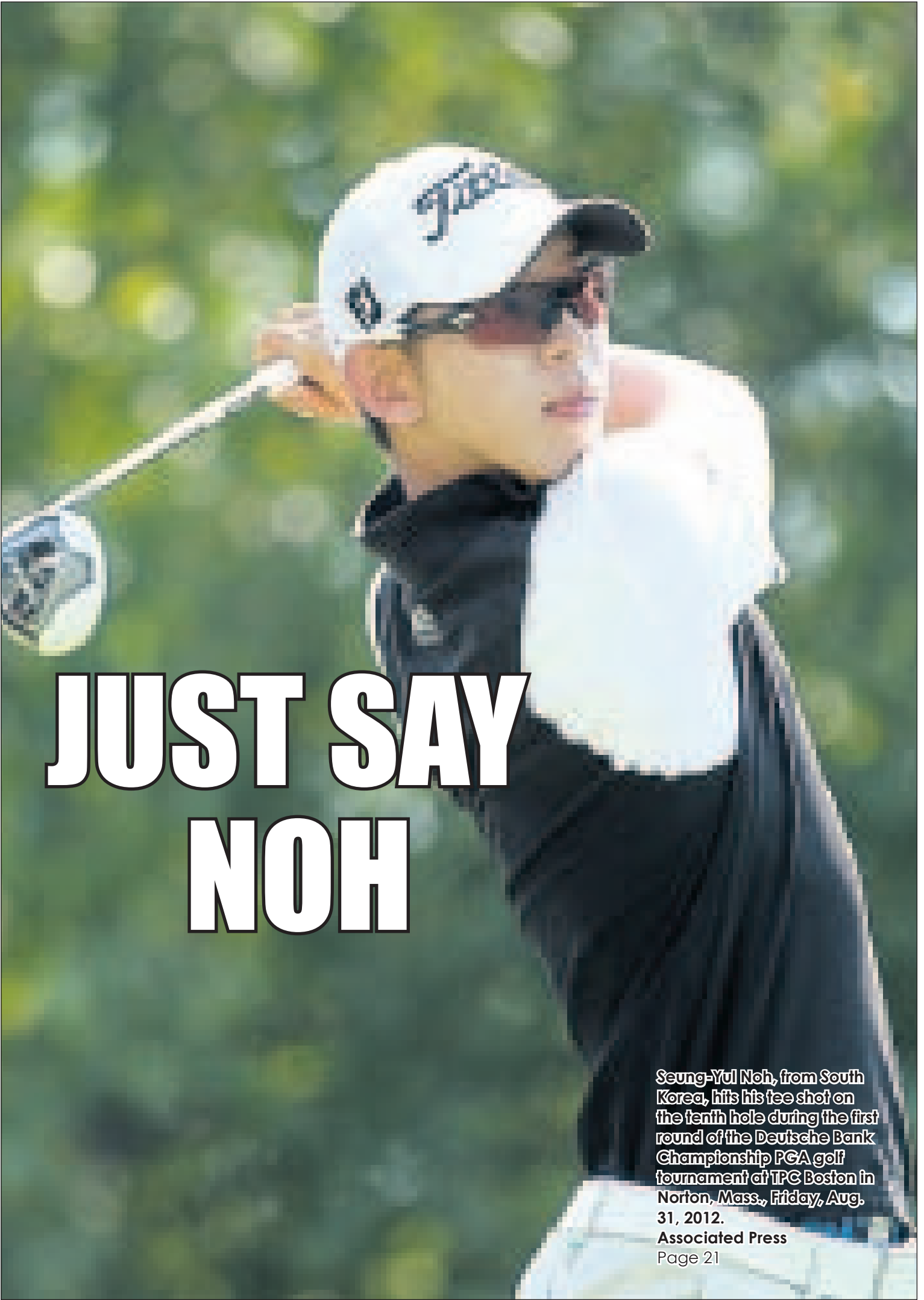
NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Roddick is not ready for retirement just yet.

A day after surprisingly announcing the U.S. Open will be the last tournament of his career, Roddick dominated Australian teenager-Bernard Tomic from start to finish Friday night in Arthur Ashe Stadium and reached the third round with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 victory.

"I had no idea what was going to happen out there," Roddick said. "I've played a lot of matches and that was a different kind of nerves than I've had before, so that was surprising for me."

Roddick, the 2003 U.S. Open champion and former No. 1-ranked player, took the time to look around the packed stadium, eyeing people dancing in the stands during changeovers and taking it all in — in case this was it. But he will get to play at least one more time before walking away from professional tennis, against 59th-ranked Fabio Fognini of Italy.

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Seung-Yul Noh, from South Korea, hits his tee shot on the tenth hole during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass., Friday, Aug. 31, 2012.
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NHL breaks off talks after union's latest offer

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) -- NHL labor negotiations hit a standstill after talks broke off on Friday, two weeks before the league has threatened to lock out its players.

NHL Players' Association executive director Don Fehr announced that the NHL asked that talks be "recessed" after the union presented its latest proposal during negotiations held at the league's headquarters in New York.

Fehr said the union's latest proposal "did not bear fruit." The NHLPA's latest offer came three days after the NHL made its first counterproposal. After asking the players to cut their share of hockey revenue from 57 to 43 percent, the NHL upped its proposal to have the players get a 46 percent share over a six-year deal.

The two sides took a break from talks on Thursday after the union said it was preparing a counterproposal.

The current CBA expires on Sept. 15, with the NHL already saying it's prepared to



Donald Fehr, executive director of the NHL Players union, speaks with the media after labor talks with the league in Toronto, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012.

Associated Press

lock out its players if no deal is reached by then. The NHL regular season is scheduled to open Oct. 11, but that date is now in jeopardy.

The two sides were scheduled to continue negotiations in New York next week, but the status of those talks are now uncertain.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said he doesn't see a need to continue negotia-

tions until new ideas can be brought to the table.

"Someone needs to say something new," Bettman said.

This is not the turn in negotiations the commissioner was hoping for, especially after the NHL altered its proposal this week.

"What I thought was a promising week ended with disappointment," Bettman said.

The NHLPA is now preparing for the possibility of a lockout, and has scheduled an executive board meeting in New York for Sept. 12-13.

The breakdown in talks further raises the prospect that the NHL is heading toward its fourth labor dispute in 20 years.

It's a stretch that dates to April 1, 1992, when players held a 10-day strike which forced 30 games to be rescheduled. The most memorable and disruptive breakdown in labor talks came during the last negotiations, which led to the entire 2004-05 season being wiped out.

The NHL was optimistic that its latest proposal would bring the two sides closer together. "We're hopeful that it's a meaningful proposal that we can continue to make progress from," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said Thursday.

"We feel like we made a good step in that direction earlier this week and we hope that they would make a step forward as well."

The union has questioned the NHL as to why it is attempting to have players bear much of the burden of cost savings, especially after the league reported record revenues topping \$3.1 billion last season.

Aside from asking the players to take an across the board cut in their share of revenues, the NHL is also seeking to place severe limits on free agency while also abolishing players' rights to salary arbitration.

The NHLPA has taken a different approach in its proposal, though accepting the league's claim that it financial issues that need resolving. The union has proposed reducing its share of revenues for the first three years of a deal, which would lead to as much as \$800 million in savings for the NHL, before having the option to return to the current system in the fourth year.

The union has also proposed that NHL teams adopt a revenue-sharing system to help struggling teams. □

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Stephen Cummings wins 13th Vuelta stage



FERROL, Spain (AP) — Stephen Cummings won the 13th stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Friday, and Joaquin Rodriguez maintained his overall advantage, ahead of a weekend of mountain climbs where Alberto Contador will be looking to challenge for the leader's red jersey.

Cummings broke off from the leading group with four kilometers to the finish line in the 107.4-mile leg.

The Briton finished in 4 hours, 5 minutes, 2 seconds, while Cameron Meyer of Australia and Juan Antonio Flecha of

Spain were four seconds behind.

German cyclist John Degenkolb, who has four stage wins, was seventh as the peloton crossed 40 seconds back.

Rodriguez stayed 13 seconds up on fellow Spaniard Alberto Contador and 51 seconds ahead of Tour de France runner-up Christopher Froome of Britain after all three crossed the line with the peloton. Alejandro Valverde of Spain trails by 1:20.

Saturday's 93-mile stage features five category climbs including a steep finish at the top of Puerto

de Ancares.

"We should be moving into my type of terrain," said 2008 champion Contador, who has the fresher legs after sitting out since February because of a doping ban. "I hope to take advantage of the opportunity. I'm in good shape and I've prepared for this."

The climbs continue through to Monday's stage, where Rodriguez expects the special category finish at Cuitunigru to be decisive.

"I need to maintain my lead, that's clear. But if I feel good I'll try to attack and gain some seconds," Rodriguez said. "I need to be wary of Alberto and if I can leave him trailing behind I will. It would be nice if he had a bad day." □

Race leader Joaquin Rodríguez of Spain waves on the podium after winning the 12th stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race in Dumbria, Spain Thursday Aug. 30, 2012.

Associated Press

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Noh leads in Boston as Woods starts well

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NORTON, Massachusetts

(AP) — Tiger Woods had

his lowest opening round in three years on Friday at the Deutsche Bank Championship but it still wasn't enough to match leader Seung-yul Noh.

Noh, a rising star from South Korea in his first season on the PGA Tour, ran off four straight birdies early in his round and closed with back-to-back birdies on the TPC Boston for a 9-under 62.

That gave him a one-shot lead over Chris Kirk, whose 23 putts included an eagle on the new 18th hole.

Woods stirred up a big gallery on a glorious summer day in New England with six straight birdies, which featured four putts of at least 12 feet and flop shot executed so perfectly that it cleared a steep bunker and landed in an area of the green no larger than a hula hoop. His lone bogey on the final hole gave him a 7-under 64, putting him in a three-way tie for third with Jeff Overton and Ryan Moore.

The average score was just under 70 on a perfect day for scoring.

Rory McIlroy struggled off the tee, though he judged one of the lies in the rough beautifully on the ninth hole, a 7-iron into tap-in range that led to a 65.

Noh stole the show, even if hardly anyone was



Tiger Woods hits off the 11th tee during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass., Friday, Aug. 31, 2012.

paying attention or was not really sure who he was.

"Some people say Kevin Na, like, 'Go Kevin,'" Noh said.

The 21-year-old from South Korea won his first Asian Tour title at age 17, and he chose to come over to America this year to ease his travel. He made it through Q-school in December, and on Friday turned in his strongest PGA Tour round to date.

"Everything good today," Noh said.

He went to work with coach Sean Foley in May, joining a stable that

includes Woods, Hunter Mahan and Justin Rose.

"He's a good kid," Mahan said after a much-needed 68. "If Foley says, 'Do this 1,000 times,' he'll go home and do it 1,000 times."

The start was more meaningful for Overton, whose game has practically disappeared since he played on the Ryder Cup team two years ago. He is No. 83 in the FedEx Cup standings, and only the top 70 advance next week to the third playoff event at Crooked Stick in Indiana — his home state.

He had his own bird-

ie streak, sinking five straight through the 16th hole, and then added one more birdie on the 18th hole for a 64 that put him atop the leaderboard with Woods from the morning session.

Woods played with Barclays winner Nick Watney and Brandt Snedeker, two players who are trying to be selected as Ryder Cup captain's picks on Tuesday. Snedeker scrambled his way to a respectable 69. Watney never looked comfortable in his round of 72.

Dustin Johnson, another candidate to get one of the four Ryder Cup selec-

tions, opened with a 67. Rickie Fowler overcame a rugged start to salvage a 71. Jim Furyk and Steve Stricker, likely to get two of the picks, each had a 69.

Getting off to a good start is nothing new for Woods. This was the 14th time in 18 tournaments this year that he was at par or better. Lately, it's been about the finishes. Even though Woods has won three times this year — the most of anyone on the PGA Tour — he has turned in some peculiar weekends. Twice he was tied for the lead at majors going into the final two rounds and stumbled. Last week at Bethpage Black, he had a 72-76 weekend to drop into the middle of the pack.

Woods doesn't seem bothered by all this. He attributed last week to extreme conditions on the greens at Bethpage in the third round, and a final round that simply got away from him on a three-hole stretch on the back nine.

"It wasn't like I was hitting a lot of awful shots," he said. "I just needed a couple putts to go my way, and it didn't happen. I should be right around par, and it turns into an over-par round. Today was about the same as I have been playing pretty much all summer, just go out there and playing pretty consistent. It was just a nice, solid round." □

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Roddick

Continued from Page 17

"I look forward to it," the 20th-seeded Roddick said during an on-court interview with one of his former coaches, Brad Gilbert, "and I'm going to try to stick around a little longer." By the sound of their repeated ovations, and the sight of all their camera flashes, the supportive crowd of about 24,000 or so would love to see that. Roddick turned 30 on Thursday, and held a news conference to say he would quit after a season of injuries and poor results at Grand Slam tournaments. But he sure looked good against the 43rd-ranked Tomic, hitting 13 aces, including on the final point. With that, Roddick flashed a smile as wide as can be. "Oh, man. That was so much fun. I really appreciate that," Roddick told the crowd. "Thank you, guys." Asked whether he got emotional while preparing for what could have been his final appearance as a professional tennis player, Roddick said: "I've been trying to be good all day. Had a rough patch there,

about 15 minutes before the match. Made the mistake of walking by one of the TVs while they were doing slow, dramatic things. I assume it was set to an '80s ballad. It got me a little bit." Perhaps it was just a coincidence, but one such song, Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" from 1981, was ringing through the arena as Roddick left for the locker room.

That's the sort of wit Roddick became as known for as his big, big serve — he used to hold the record of 155 mph — and his superb forehand, along with an unbending competitive streak. In addition to his U.S. Open trophy, the last Grand Slam singles title for an American man, Roddick lost four major finals, all to Roger Federer.

While the players warmed up on court before the match, the stadium announcer noted that Roddick was "competing in his final U.S. Open," and so he let out a deep exhale, then lifted his racket to acknowledge the fans' applause. He made sure to pay attention to every detail, even getting rid of one tennis ball in the second set's second game



Britain's Laura Robson returns a shot to China's Li Na in the third round of play at the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, in New York.

Associated Press

after pointing out to the chair umpire that it was the sort of red-logo ball used for women's matches. That this was not going to be a final farewell became clear right away. Roddick hit three aces in the very first game — two at 136 mph, another at 138 mph — and

added two more — at 125 mph, then 134 mph — while moving out to a 3-0 lead. And he enjoyed himself out there, skipping back to the baseline after one early overhead smash, and looking up to his mother and brother and coach after capping the opening set

with a 136 mph ace. After a sliding, stretching volley winner early in the third set, part of a run of eight games to end things, Roddick threw his arms overhead and waved them as some spectators leaped to their feet.

Not only was Tomic out-classed, but by the late stages, TV commentator and seven-time major champion John McEnroe was telling ESPN2 viewers that the Australian maybe should be fined for lack of effort.

Asked about that assessment, Tomic initially responded casually, saying: "Well, I think he's probably right."

But when pressed some more, Tomic bristled at a reporter and said, "That's how I play. If you think that's that, it's up to you. What is your name?" When the reporter told him, Tomic replied: "I'll remember you."

The 19-year-old Tomic is not a nobody; at Wimbledon last year, he became the youngest quarterfinalist since Boris Becker in 1986, and then he finished the season as the youngest member of the top 100 in the ATP rankings.

But this was Roddick's night, a celebration of his career and a chance to extend it.

Shortly after the match, a TV interview with Roddick was interrupted by a group of fans chanting, "One more year! One more year!"

That's probably not going to happen.

But there will be at least one more match for Roddick. Other men's winners Friday included defending champion Novak Djokovic, 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro and 2001 champion Lleyton Hewitt, who came back to beat Gilles Muller 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4. □

WNBA Roundup

Sun ends Silver Stars home dominance

The Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — It took the team with the WNBA's best road record to end the San Antonio Silver Stars nine-game home winning streak on Thursday, as the Connecticut Sun won 84-73.

Tina Charles scored 22 points to lead the Eastern Conference-leading Sun, while Kara Lawson added 14 points.

Danielle Adams scored 22 points for San Antonio (17-8) while Becky Hammon was

held to eight points while taking only three shots.

After exchanging baskets for much of the first quarter, Connecticut took command in the second. Connecticut raced to a 14-point lead midway through the quarter while holding San Antonio scoreless for a 4:17 span.

Indiana Fever remained 2 1-2 games behind Connecticut by beating New York Liberty 74-63.

Tamika Catchings scored 22 points and Katie Douglas

had 15 for the Fever, which has won all four games since the Olympic break.

Cappie Pondexter and Essence Carson had 18 points each for New York, which trailed by only a point in the fourth quarter before Indiana scored the next 12 points.

In the Western Conference, the Los Angeles Sparks dropped two games off the lead after a 99-85 loss to Tulsa Shock.

Fill-in starter Ivory Latta did the damage, scoring 21

points and a career-best 14 assists after being called up to replace Temeka Johnson in the lineup.

Los Angeles led by eight points at halftime but trailed by 16 at the last break, and slipped two games off Minnesota.

In other games, Atlanta Dream dominated in the second half to beat Washington Mystics 82-59 while Phoenix Mercury ended a ten-game losing sequence by beating Seattle Storm 75-68. □

AL Capsules

Britton fans 10 as Orioles beat White Sox 5-3

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Zach Britton struck out a career-high 10 in eight innings, Taylor Teagarden and Adam Jones homered and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Chicago White Sox 5-3 Thursday for their eighth win in 11 games.

Baltimore took three of four from the AL Central-leading White Sox to complete a 5-1 homestand that started with a two-game sweep of Toronto.

The victory moved the Orioles (72-58) within three games of the idle AL East-leading New York Yankees, who host Baltimore in a three-game series that begins Friday night.

Britton (4-1) gave up one run, seven hits and did not issue a walk. He fanned Dewayne Wise three times and eclipsed his previous single-game career high of seven strikeouts by the fifth inning.



Chicago White Sox's A.J. Pierzynski (12) is tagged out by Baltimore Orioles catcher Taylor Teagarden (31) during the second inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

ATHLETICS 12, INDIANS 7

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jarrod Parker pitched into the sixth inning and Oakland hit four home runs, leading the Athletics to their sixth straight win, a victory over the free-falling Indians and a sweep of the four-game series.

Oakland, which has won

eight of nine, maintained its one-game lead over Baltimore for the top spot in the AL wild card race. George Kottaras' three-run double broke a 1-1 tie in the fourth while Coco Crisp, Cliff Pennington, Josh Reddick and Josh Donaldson homered.

While the Athletics are flying

high, the Indians continue to fade. Cleveland has lost five straight, 14 of 15 and is 5-27 since July 27.

MARINERS 5, TWINS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Blake Beavan gave up two runs in seven innings and Trayvon Robinson drove in two runs to lift the Mariners over the Twins.

Beavan (9-8) scattered five hits, walked two and struck out one.

Kyle Seager also drove in two runs for the Mariners, who have won 11 of their last 15 games.

Brian Duensing (3-10) gave up three earned runs and four hits in 5 1-3 innings. He left after loading the bases in the sixth, and left fielder Josh Willingham's blunder contributed to Seattle's four-run inning.

Willingham's two-run homer in the eighth off Stephen Pryor made things interesting, but Tom Wilhelmsen picked up his 21st save to

help the Mariners take three of four in the series.

BLUE JAYS 2, RAYS 0

TORONTO (AP) — Carlos Villanueva pitched six sharp innings and Toronto beat slumping Tampa Bay, snapping a five-game losing streak against the Rays.

Tampa Bay lost for the fifth time in six games and dropped 1½ games behind Baltimore for the second AL wild-card berth. The Rays have been shut out twice in the past three games.

Kelly Johnson hit a two-run double in the first inning and the Blue Jays won consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 12-13, improving to 3-9 against the Rays this season.

Villanueva (7-4) allowed five hits, all singles, to win for the first time since July 27 against Detroit. The right-hander had gone 0-4 in five starts since, despite never allowing more than four earned runs. □

NL Capsules

Lucroy's 7RBIs not enough as Brewers lose to Cubs

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Lucroy hit a grand slam and drove in seven runs for Milwaukee, but Alfonso Soriano's RBI single capped a three-run comeback in the ninth inning Thursday that lifted the Chicago Cubs over the Brewers 12-11.

In a seesaw game featuring a combined 15 extra-base hits, the Cubs led 3-0, trailed 9-3 and were still down 11-9 going into the ninth.

Starlin Castro hit an RBI single against Francisco Rodriguez (2-7), Anthony Rizzo tied it with his second double of the afternoon and Soriano won the game with his one-out drive off the center-field wall.

Lucroy tied his career high for RBIs and Rickie Weeks had five hits. Ryan Braun and Cody Ransom also homered for Milwaukee, which had won eight

straight against the Cubs.

PHILLIES 3, METS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Phillies star Jimmy Rollins was benched after a pair of baserunning blunders in Philadelphia's win over the Mets.

Rollins was pulled for the start of the seventh inning after a pair of mistakes in the sixth.

The former NL MVP failed to run hard on a dropped popup that could have put him on second base. He stole second base, then was caught in a rundown on a grounder and was tagged out.

Rollins drew the ire of Phillies fans earlier this month when he jogged down the line on a grounder in a game at Miami. He met privately with manager Charlie Manuel the next day. Manuel refused to bench his All-Star shortstop then. He had no

hesitation against the Mets.

NATIONALS 8, CARDINALS 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bryce Harper hit his third home run in two games, Jason Werth homered for the first time since May, and Edwin Jackson struck out 10 Thursday night as the Nationals padded their NL East lead with a win over the punchless Cardinals.

The Nationals opened an 11-game homestand with an overwhelming performance against a wild-card contender that failed to score an earned run for the third straight game.

Jackson (8-9) was so dominant that three of his strikeouts required throws to first because the Cardinals were chasing balls in the dirt.

The victory moved the Nationals 5½ games ahead of idle Atlanta.

Jaime Garcia (3-6) allowed



Milwaukee Brewers' Jonathan Lucroy points to the dugout after hitting an RBI single against the Chicago Cubs during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Chicago, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012.

Associated Press

six runs for the Cardinals, whose streak of 28 scoreless innings ended in the eighth.

GIANTS 8, ASTROS 4

HOUSTON (AP) — Hunter Pence hit a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh inning and the Giants rallied again for a win over the Astros.

The Giants were down 4-0 after four innings. They cut the lead to one with a three-run fifth inning, and Pablo Sandoval singled in a run in the seventh to tie

it. Pence, who hit a three-run homer on Wednesday, then caused trouble for his former team again, this time with a two RBI grounder off Fernando Rodriguez (1-9) to shallow center field that put San Francisco on top 6-4. San Francisco came back to win the opener of the series and Thursday's win completed their sixth sweep this season.

San Francisco got six innings out of starter Ryan Vogelsong (12-7). □

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Bernanke: With unemployment high, Fed can do more

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming
(AP) —

Chairman Ben Bernanke sent a clear message Friday that the Federal Reserve will do more to help the still-struggling U.S. economy. His remarks left two questions: What exactly will the Fed do? And when?

Bernanke described the U.S. economy's health as "far from satisfactory" and noted that the unemployment rate, now 8.3 percent, hasn't declined since January.

He stopped short of committing the Fed to any specific move. But in his speech to an annual Fed conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Bernanke said that even with interest rates already at super-lows, the Fed can do more.

He acknowledged critics' arguments that further Fed action could fan inflation and inject other risks. Yet after raising such arguments, Bernanke proceeded to knock them down.

Some economists predict the Fed will unveil some bold new step as soon as its Sept. 12-13 meeting, possibly a third round of bond purchases meant to lower long-term interest rates and encourage more borrowing and spending. That policy is called "quantitative easing," or QE. In two rounds of QE, the Fed bought more than \$2 trillion of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities. Many investors have been hoping for a third round — a QE3. "Bernanke has taken a further step along the path to more policy stimulus, most likely a third round of asset purchases (QE3) to be announced at the mid-September FOMC meeting," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. Others expect something

less dramatic: a plan to keep short-term rates near zero into 2015 unless the economy improves, perhaps followed by bond purchases later.

In his speech, Bernanke assessed the economy's weaknesses, defended the extraordinary steps the Fed has taken to date and insisted it can do more.

Investors took time to digest Bernanke's speech but in the end seemed pleased. After his remarks were released at 10 a.m. Eastern time, the

to record lows. Yet even with short-term rates as low as they can go, the economy still needs help.

Central banks can take "nontraditional" measures when they've run out of conventional ammunition. And under Bernanke the Fed has tried many. It's made its public communications more explicit. For example, it's sought to embolden investors and businesses by saying short-term rates will stay low as long as the economy is

have succeeded. He cited research showing that two rounds of QE had created 2 million jobs and accelerated U.S. economic growth.

Even if the Fed does act further, many analysts doubt it would make much difference. Interest rates, both short- and long-term, are near historic lows. Borrowing — for those who have the credit — has never been cheaper. Yet the economy remains in a rut.

Critics have also argued that

cessive policy accommodation would ignite inflation." And he said "we have seen little evidence thus far of unsafe buildups of risk or leverage."

In his speech to the annual conference sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Bernanke seemed to embrace a dual mission: Rebut arguments against further Fed action — and build a case for it.

He echoed what the Fed had said in a statement after its last policy meeting July 31-Aug. 1: that it will act further, as needed, to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

In the weeks since then, somewhat better economic news had led some analysts to suggest that the Fed might now feel less urgency to act. But on Friday, Bernanke didn't mention any recent economic improvements. And his reiteration of the Fed's readiness to provide more help suggested that his view of the economy remains dim.

He called the weak job market "a grave concern" that causes "enormous suffering," wastes talent and can inflict lasting damage on the economy. Bernanke and other Fed officials are expected to closely review the August jobs report, which comes out Sept. 7, to see how urgently the economy needs help. The consensus forecast of economists is that employers added 135,000 jobs in August, according to a survey by FactSet.

"The Fed sounds about as close as they can get to taking action, short of sitting around the table in September and voting for it," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ. □



With the Teton Mountains behind them, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, left, and Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer walk together outside of the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, at Grand Teton National Park near Jackson Hole, Wyo. Bernanke made clear Friday that the Federal Reserve will do more to boost the economy because of high U.S. unemployment and an economic recovery that remains "far from satisfactory."

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Dow Jones industrial average shed some of its earlier gains. Then it rose more than 100 points. It closed up about 90 points, or 0.7 percent.

Bernanke acknowledged that the Fed is operating in essentially uncharted territory.

Traditionally, central banks stimulate weak economies by pushing down short-term rates. In December 2008, the Fed slashed such rates

weak. The Fed originally said it expected to keep rates "exceptionally low" through mid-2013. It extended that target to late 2014.

And besides embarking on two rounds on QE, the Fed has sold short-term Treasuries and replaced them with long-term Treasuries. That shift is intended to push long-term rates down further.

Bernanke argued Friday that collectively, such measures

besides escalating inflation later, the Fed's easy-money policies could push individuals and institutions into riskier investments. That, in turn, could destabilize the financial system.

Bernanke conceded that nontraditional policies carry risks. But he argued that these risks are "manageable." He noted that inflation remains around 2 percent despite "repeated warnings that ex-

Wall Street Wrap:

Stocks higher, but volatile, after Bernanke speaks

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

It took a while, but investors eventually decided they liked what they heard from Ben Bernanke, and stock indexes rose enough on Friday to put them into positive territory for August. Stocks gyrated after the Federal Reserve chairman spoke on Friday morning. They first gave up their morning gains, then bolted to their highs for the day, before settled in-between. The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day up 90.13 points at 13,090.84. A half-hour after trading began, Bernanke declared that the Fed is ready to take more action to help an economy that's "far from satisfactory."

Investors have been watching to see whether the Fed will buy more bonds to further lower long-term interest rates. Stocks fell initially, however, after it became clear that no such an-

nouncement was coming Friday and that Bernanke had stopped short of committing the Fed to any specific move. Still, he said the Fed "should not rule out" new policies to improve the job market. Stocks rebounded once investors parsed his comments. At one point the Dow was up as many as 151 points. In terms of volatility, "it's been the most action we've seen in couple of weeks," said Ryan Larson, a senior equity trader at RBC Global Asset Management. He noted that pre-Labor Day volume was light, with many investors and traders on vacation, which can contribute to bigger price swings.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed up by 7.10 points at 1,406.58. The Nasdaq rose 18.25 points to close at 3,066.96. The Dow finished the month of August up by 0.8 percent.

The S&P 500 rose more than 2 percent for the month, and the Nasdaq rose more than 4 percent. Investors looking for help from the Federal Reserve

may only have one more chance before the election, said Frank Fantozi, CEO of Planned Financial Services in Cleveland. The Fed's policy-making



A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, in New York. Stocks are giving up some of their gains after comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. Bernanke made clear Friday that the Federal Reserve will do more to boost the economy because of high U.S. unemployment and an economic recovery that remains "far from satisfactory."

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

Ford on track to beat Toyota with car sales

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

RAYONG, Thailand (AP) — The stylish and nimble Ford Focus is on track to unseat Toyota's aging Corolla to become the world's top-selling car, according to Ford.

The company says it sold 489,616 Focus sedans and hatchbacks globally in the first half of 2012, besting the Corolla by almost 27,000. The Focus has several advantages, says Aaron Bragman, an automotive industry analyst for IHS Global Insight. It is newer, features better handling and styling, has superior technology and a much nicer interior than the Corolla.

"I'd rank it superior to the Corolla in pretty much most ways," says Bragman.

But Toyota isn't conceding the title. It has disputed Ford's numbers, saying its car is still on top when you include Corollas sold under other names. Hatchback versions of the Corolla are sold as the Auris in Europe and Matrix in the U.S.

Toyota also sells the Corolla Verso, a van-like vehicle that Toyota has traditionally counted as a Corolla, says spokesman Mike Michels. Including all the models, Toyota sold 603,840 Corollas in the first half, beating the focus by about 114,000, Michels says.

Toyota is working on a new version of the Corolla which is expected to go on sale next year, although the company hasn't made it official. Ford made the announcement at its assembly plant in Rayong, which opened in May to build the Focus. The Thailand plant, which is one of Ford's most advanced, has the capacity to produce 150,000 cars per year for sale in Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and other countries in the region. Ford's recently revamped Focus is sold in more than 100 countries worldwide. It's a strong seller in the U.S., where Focus sales were up 31 percent in the first half of the year compared with 2011.

American, US Airways move closer to merger

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — American Airlines and US Airways are one step closer to a potential merger. The companies said Friday they have started confidential merger talks. But a deal is still far from reality. "It does not mean we are merging — it simply means we have agreed to work together to discuss and analyze a potential merger," US Airways CEO Doug Parker said in a letter to employees Friday. Such a merger would put the combined airline on par with the world's largest — United Continental Holdings Inc. — and the slightly smaller Delta Air Lines. Its position as the No. 1 or No. 2 airline in the world, based on how many miles its passengers fly, would depend on how many routes anti-trust regulators force the combined airline to abandon. Many industry experts say the only way American and US Airways can com-

pete with larger rivals is by merging their strengths. US Airways would gain American's lucrative international routes while American's larger hubs would be fed passengers from US Airways' network in smaller U.S. cities.

For passengers, a merger would have no immediate impact. But a year or two into the combination, changes would ramp up: Frequent flier programs would merge, fares could rise, planes would take on American Airlines' colors

and glitches could surface as their reservation systems integrate.

Parker has been pushing for a merger since American's parent company, AMR Corp., entered bankruptcy protection on Nov. 29, 2011. American Airlines CEO Tom Horton has said his airline is weighing several options, including remaining independent or merging with one of several airlines, including US Airways Group Inc. One wildcard: British Airways' parent company International Airlines Group, which confirmed Friday that it too had signed a non-disclosure agreement with American. Foreign investors are prohibited from owning more than 25 percent of a U.S. airline but a cash infusion from British Airways could help American remain independent or give Horton enough leverage so his leadership team can call the shots in a merger with US Airways.



A US Airways jet takes-off as an American Airlines Jet is prepped for takeoff at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix. The parent company of American Airlines has entered a non-disclosure agreement with U.S. Airways that will allow the companies to discuss combining the companies. AMR Corp., which is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, and U.S. Airways Group Inc. said Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, that they've agreed not to talk to other parties about any potential combination while they are evaluating their situation with each other.

(AP Photo/Matt York)



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Little relief at the pump this Labor Day

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The big spike in gasoline prices is just about over, but it's too late to bring much relief for Labor Day weekend.

The national average price for gasoline inched up just 0.3 cents Friday to \$3.83 per gallon, ending a string of dramatic increases caused by Hurricane Isaac.

"We're in the ninth inning of this," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service.

Still, drivers will pay the highest pump prices ever for this time of year.

The sky-high prices are keeping people like David Keup of Cedarburg, Wis., home. He was planning to visit a few friends near Coleman, Wis. this weekend, but now he's going to abandon the 285-mile round trip. "It's not worth the added expense," he said.

Isaac, now slowly disintegrating over the middle of the country, forced several Gulf Coast refineries to shut down or operate at lower rates. This is deprived markets of millions of gallons of gasoline and sent prices

sharply higher.

The storm pushed the national average gasoline price up 10 cents per gallon in one week, including a 5 cent gain Wednesday that was the biggest one-day gain since February of 2011.



A man pumps gas into his van while a sign advertises that a gallon of regular unleaded costs \$4.09 at the Speedway on South Westnedge Avenue in Kalamazoo, Mich. The big spike in gasoline prices is just about over, but it's too late to bring much relief for Labor Day weekend. The national average price for gasoline inched up just 0.3 cents Friday to \$3.83 per gallon, ending a string of dramatic increases caused by Hurricane Isaac.

(AP Photo/Mark Bugnaski)

But the price surge appears to be over. Kloza expects average gasoline prices to creep higher during the weekend then start falling after Labor Day, the last big driving weekend of the summer.

Pump prices were on the rise even before Isaac arrived. The average gasoline price rose about 40 cents from July 1 to mid-August because of refinery problems in the Midwest and West Coast, and sharply higher crude oil prices.

Crude has traded between \$94 and \$97 per barrel for two weeks, after rising from a low near \$77 in late June. On Friday U.S. benchmark crude rose \$1.85 to end at \$96.47 per barrel after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke made clear in a speech that the central bank will do more to revive the U.S. economy.

Brent Crude, which is used

to price oil used by many U.S. refiners, rose \$1.92 to \$114.57 per barrel.

In a speech at an annual Fed conference in Jackson Hole, Wyo., Bernanke said the economic recovery is "far from satisfactory" but he did not give any timetable for action that might reduce borrowing costs and help stimulate growth.

If the Fed reduces the cost of borrowing, it could boost demand for the energy needed to fuel growth and make oil and other commodities more attractive investments.

"With interest rates near zero, people look for somewhere to put their money. One of those places is the oil market," said energy analyst and consultant Jim Ritterbusch.

Ritterbusch expects them to stay roughly in the \$95-per barrel range well into September. □

Warren Buffett's firm relying less on insurance units

JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — Warren Buffett's birthday this week was good news for Berkshire Hathaway investors who could celebrate another year of the Oracle of Omaha's leadership. But the milestone also reminded shareholders they need to think about who will run the evolving company after Buffett is gone.

The more than 80 businesses that Buffett has assembled at Berkshire are mostly humming along well, posting a profit of more than \$3 billion in the most-recent quarter. Its Class A stock closed at \$127,183 on Thursday — less than \$3 away from its 52-week high set in early August. So there's plenty for

shareholders to celebrate. But Buffett's advancing age — he turned 82 on Thursday — coupled with his radiation treatment for prostate cancer this summer, keeps his mortality on the minds of many Berkshire investors. Buffett has said the cancer isn't life-threatening, and he is feeling good.

Buffett has outlined Berkshire's succession plan and reassured investors that his board has chosen a successor and two backup candidates, although he won't say who the company's next CEO will be. Buffett is both chairman and CEO.

Buffett has no plans to step down, saying he enjoys the dealmaking too much, even though he hasn't

landed a sizeable acquisition since buying chemical maker Lubrizol for \$9 billion last year.

Whoever takes over Berkshire after Buffett will inherit a sprawling conglomerate that is evolving with each new acquisition. The Omaha-based company now relies less on the insurance companies and investments it has long been known for and more on its railroad, utility and manufacturing companies.

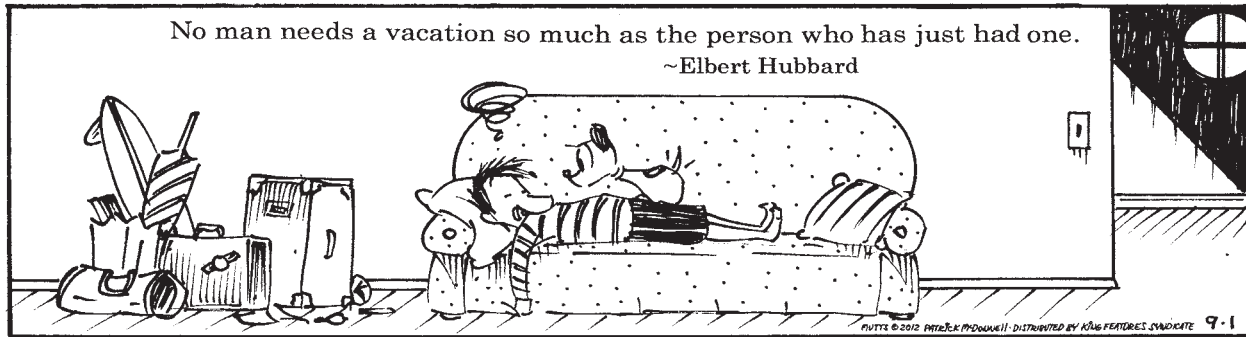
"The insurance is increasingly more of an engine that runs in the background instead of the driver of the business," said Jeff Matthews, an investor who wrote "Secrets in Plain Sight: Business & Investing Secrets of Warren Buffett." □



Warren Buffett, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, waves to shareholders prior to the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb. Buffett's 82nd birthday on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012, gave Berkshire Hathaway shareholders reason to celebrate another year of his leadership, but it also reminded investors to worry about who will run the evolving company after Buffett is gone.

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

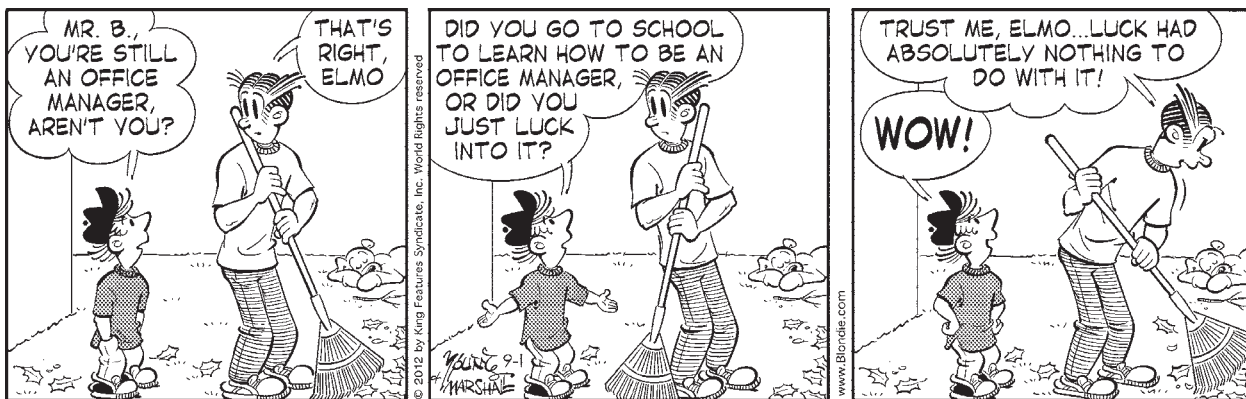
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



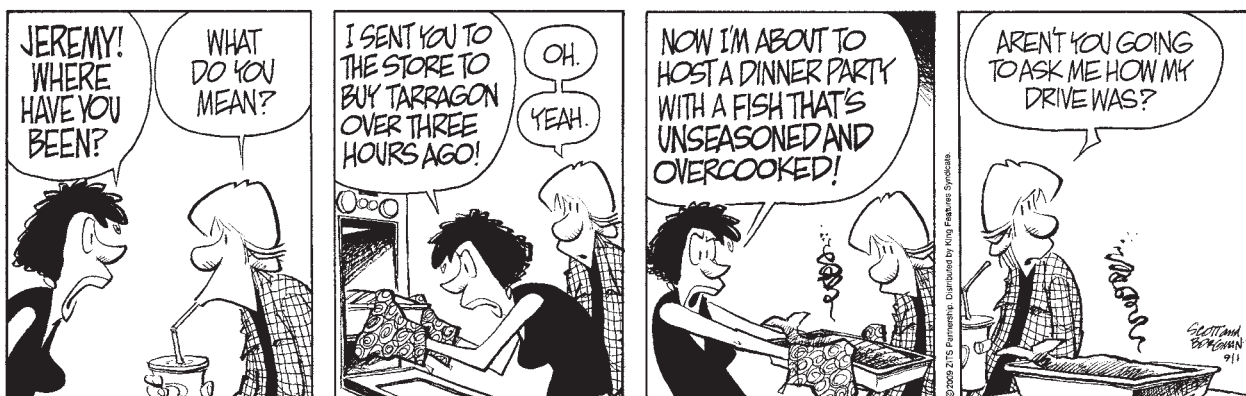
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		9		6		5	7	
			5					9
2					4			3
	2				6	3		
3								2
		4	7				1	
6			2					7
9					5			
	7	3		8		6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/01

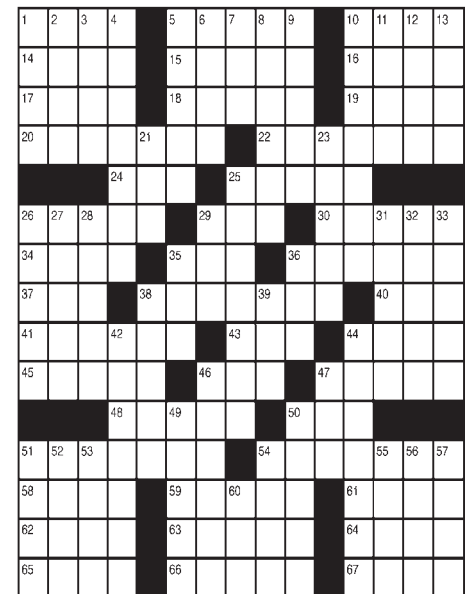
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	9	6	4	3	7	5	2	1
4	1	2	8	5	6	3	9	7
7	5	3	2	1	9	6	4	8
9	8	7	3	6	1	2	5	4
1	3	4	5	7	2	8	6	9
6	2	5	9	8	4	1	7	3
5	4	1	6	9	3	7	8	2
3	6	9	7	2	8	4	1	5
2	7	8	1	4	5	9	3	6

ACROSS

- 1 Nincompoop
- 5 Frequently
- 10 ___ in; wearing
- 14 Barbell material, often
- 15 Tinker Bell, for one
- 16 Asian staple
- 17 ___ away; donated
- 18 End-of-semester exam
- 19 Actress Samms
- 20 Thin
- 22 Convertible couch
- 24 Get it wrong
- 25 Trait carriers
- 26 Smart-alecky
- 29 Papa
- 30 Instruct
- 34 "My ___ are sealed"
- 35 Zodiac sign Aries the ___
- 36 Anguish
- 37 As busy ___ bee
- 38 Took a spill
- 40 Ice Cube's music
- 41 Lighthearted
- 43 Regulation
- 44 Sinful habit
- 45 Mexican mister
- 46 Nov.'s follower
- 47 ___ at; glimpses
- 48 Game played with cards and chips
- 50 Distant
- 51 Sleep
- 54 Go no ___; stop
- 58 El ___, Texas
- 59 Holy Scriptures
- 61 "The Hawkeye State"
- 62 Hobbies for Tina Turner & Mamie, once
- 63 To no ___; fruitlessly
- 64 Western writer Zane ___
- 65 Home of twigs
- 66 Lahr and Parks
- 67 Boat propellers



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/1/12

DOWN

- 1 Uses a shovel
- 2 Spoken
- 3 Bird of peace
- 4 Unity
- 5 Bid
- 6 County gala
- 7 Rin Tin ___
- 8 Wiped away
- 9 Panty hose material
- 10 Folds
- 11 Arm or leg
- 12 Peak
- 13 Deceased
- 21 Parched
- 23 Smelly
- 25 Casino patron
- 26 Concrete strips
- 27 Bridal path
- 28 Madrid's nation
- 29 Water barrier
- 31 Eagle's nest
- 32 ___ up; begin laughing
- 33 Promotes extravagantly
- 35 Regret
- 36 Kitten's cry

Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	U	T	U	C	E	D	A	R	C	A	P	E
A	P	E	S	A	N	I	S	E	R	U	I	N
T	O	N	E	R	E	C	A	P	T	U	R	E
A	N	D	R	O	M	E	A	M	A	S	S	
				E	M	I	L	Y		G	U	M
A	C	R	O	S	S			C	A	N	Y	O
D	A	F	O	E		P	L	A	I	T		P
A	N	O	N		C	L	E	F	T		C	E
M	O	O			M	O	U	S	E		R	A
				E	T	H	I	C	S		R	A
				U	S	A				M	O	C
B	L	A	M	E		L	O	D	E		N	A
L	O	W	P	R	O	F	I	L	E		E	D
O	B	O	E		W	O	M	A	N		T	E
B	O	L	D		E	X	E	R	T		A	D

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9/1/12

- 38 Pulsate
- 39 Fond du ___, WI
- 42 Highest
- 44 Sensation of dizziness
- 46 ___ pleasure from; enjoy
- 47 Golf hole term
- 49 BBQ favorite
- 50 Coal, gas, etc.
- 51 Whirl
- 52 ___ Tahoe
- 53 Does drugs
- 54 Flutter about
- 55 Israeli dance
- 56 Jug
- 57 Sunbeams
- 60 Tavern

Stars clawing and purring for close-ups

MELENA RYZIK

© 2012 New York Times

MINNEAPOLIS – You could hear the meows nearly a block away, and also the “awwws.” The laughter too. On Thursday evening the Walker Art Center, one of the nation’s most prominent institutions of contemporary art, hosted the inaugural Internet Cat Video Film Festival here. An estimated 10,000 people turned out for an event that was, from its inception to its closing credits, an on-line meme made flesh (and fur).

The crowd – easily double what organizers expected – packed the lawn outside the museum, spilling onto the sidewalks across the street. There were local cat lovers and out-of-state fans of Fluffy; many wore kitty-theme T-shirts or simply ears and whiskers. Some took real cats on leashes. A few dogs came, for irony. They all settled in for a screening of cats behaving badly, or cutely, or mysteriously, sometimes all at once. That much of the audience had already seen the clips on YouTube did not seem to diminish the enthusiasm. Quite the contrary.

“People watch them, and they watch them over and over and over again,” said Gretchen Sealls, 65, a retired banker who drove five hours from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. “I think you’re going to see a lot of copycat versions of this,” she added. “No pun intended.”

It is an axiom of Internet life that the cat video is king, so perhaps it was only a matter of time until something like this sprang up. Museum officials were quick to note that it was a playful, not curatorial, offering, less

Cannes than I Can Haz Film Fest, as the Lolcats might have it. But the festival did feed into the desire, driven by social media, to translate digital culture and create community offline. It explored the ways that august institutions can employ the Web as they seek new

Planet, which approached the Walker to become a sponsor of the event. Lowell was diplomatic about any “inherent dog bias in the culture” but did allow that cats are “natural stars.” The idea for the festival came from Katie Hill, 28, a program associate at the

would be a good fit with the Walker’s Open Field initiative, which calls for experimental public programming, often free, on the lawn.

The populist ethos extended to the festival’s choices: submissions were crowd-sourced, and even that process went viral: 10,000 videos from around the world were nominated within months. Hill watched every one, convening a jury of more than a dozen colleagues to help narrow the options to 79 videos that were shown in 75 minutes Thursday.

Some were just a few seconds long but still displayed the genre’s signature aesthetics: the surprise ending, the shaky camera, the piles of kittens.

Hill, affectionately referred to as the Walker’s “crazy cat lady in residence,” found there were things she didn’t know about the world of viral cat videos.

“I learned that cats have agents,” she said, when she was contacted by a representative for Keyboard Cat and Nyan Cat, two of the most famous online. In exchange for some cross-promotion, he wanted his clients flown to the festival (inasmuch as they could be: Nyan Cat is animated). Hill gently explained that the nonprofit Walker did not have that kind of budget.

“I was, like, ‘This isn’t actually like a Hollywood film festival,’” she said. □



Vanessa Gadberry stands with her cat on her shoulder at the Walker Art Center’s first Internet Cat Video Film Festival, in Minneapolis, Aug. 30, 2012. The festival attracted an estimated 10,000 people, easily double what organizers expected.

(Jenn Ackerman/The New York Times)

audiences. And it highlighted an age-old rift, bringing some potentially embarrassing behavior out of the shadows.

“A lot of people have cats, but I don’t think they talk about it as much – it’s not as visible as the dogs are,” said Vicki Lowell, senior vice president for marketing and operations at the cable channel Animal

museum, who suggested it early this year as a sort of joke. By spring her bosses came to believe that it

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KARL RITTER

Associated Press

Employing the same daredevil tactics it has used against nuclear testing or commercial whaling, the environmental group is now dead-set on preventing oil companies from profiting from global warming by drilling for oil near the Arctic's shrinking ice cap.

"It felt slightly surreal," recalled Ben Ayliffe, now the head of Greenpeace's campaign against oil drilling in the Arctic. "After what happened in the Gulf of Mexico, how can anyone

Greenpeace quickly arranged to get a ship to Greenland, where four activists attached themselves to a drilling rig for two days until a storm forced them to abandon the protest.

From a publicity standpoint, the campaign has been successful: Greenpeace officials say since June, 1.6 million people have signed the group's online petition urging world leaders to declare the Arctic a global sanctuary, off limits to oil exploration and industrial fishing. Dozens of celebrities, including Robert Redford, Paul McCartney and Penelope Cruz have announced their support, according to Greenpeace activist Sarah North.

at this kind of rate and with such ease in a campaign issue," said North, a 15-year veteran at Greenpeace. The impact on the oil industry, however, is unclear. The Arctic is believed to hold up to a quarter of the world's undiscovered oil and gas reserves. Despite difficult operating conditions and high costs, the payback for Shell, Gazprom, Statoil and other companies searching for commercial quantities of hydrocarbons could be huge.

ly they will give it up just because somebody is attacking their oil rig," said Mikhail Babenko, an oil and gas expert at the World Wildlife Fund's Global Arctic Program.

"We want to be part of this discussion," Babenko said. "We don't want to stimulate oil and gas development, but if we follow (Greenpeace's) approach we will be simply out of the game."

Cairn Energy, the Scottish company whose platforms off Greenland were targeted by Greenpeace protests in 2010 and 2011, isn't drilling there this year. By all accounts, that has nothing to do with Greenpeace but to the fact that the initial drilling was unsuccessful.

Asked what, if any, impact the Greenpeace actions had on the company's future plans for Greenland, Cairn spokeswoman Linda Bain referred to its second-quarter report, which doesn't say anything about Greenpeace.

Shell, which has also come into Greenpeace's cross-hairs for plans to drill off Alaska, also refused to discuss the group. Still, there's no doubt that Shell takes Greenpeace's Arctic campaign seriously.

In March, Shell won an injunction by a U.S. judge ordering Greenpeace to stay 1 kilometer (.6 miles) away from its drilling rigs in U.S. territorial waters.

A month earlier, New Zealand actress Lucy Lawless of the TV series "Xena: Warrior Princess" and six other Greenpeace activists had climbed aboard one of the drilling rigs before it left for Alaska. They later pleaded guilty to trespass charges and are awaiting sentencing. Greenpeace activists also climbed aboard ice-breakers contracted by Shell as they left the Baltic Sea. And the Greenpeace ship "Esperanza" is now shadowing Shell's drilling vessels as they head north to bore exploratory wells in Alaska's Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. □



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Documentary pays tribute to Michael Jackson's genius

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Michael Jackson is bathed in light, his arms outstretched and head back, as if crucified, at the end of Spike Lee's documentary "Bad 25" — a fitting image for the late pop legend who to some extent basked in fame, but was also clearly tormented by it.

Lee calls the documentary "a love letter" to Jackson. It made its Venice debut on Friday, the 25th anniversary of the blockbuster album's release.

"I think it's amazing that here we are in Venice for the world premiere of "Bad25" on the exact date 25 years ago the album was released," Lee told a group of journalists ahead of the premiere.

Lee was commissioned by Sony and Epic records to make a documentary for the anniversary, gathering interviews with collaborators on the album: dancers, choreographers, song writers,

short film directors, back-up singers, sound technicians and friends.

"'Bad' has been overlooked because it is the album that immediately came after Thriller, which is the best selling album of all time," Lee said. "Also 'Bad' was when Michael really started to flex his muscles creatively. He wrote nine of the 11 songs."

The collage of recollections lifts the lid off mysteries like who was Annie, as in "Annie are you O.K." in "Smooth Criminal" (Annie is the name of all CPR dummies) and why Jackson sings "Shamon" on the "Bad" title track (a tribute to blues singer Mavis Staples.)

Jackson, we learn, also never used the term "music videos." They were short films, and Martin Scorsese comments on "Bad," which he directed. Shot in Harlem and a Brooklyn subway station in New York City, it marked Wesley Snipes' film debut and was designed to give Jackson street cred. Lee said he was drawn to the project because of its focus on the music, and away from the media frenzy that surrounded him, the perceived eccentricities and misconceptions.

"Let's focus on his genius. Let's focus on his music. Forget the other stuff," Lee said.

The documentary argues strongly for Jackson's genius, highlighting his achievements as a singer, songwriter, producer, performer, dancer and fashion trend-setter.

And it documents his attention to detail and hard work. Lee discovers a sketch Jackson made of

the costume for "Smooth Criminal," including the armband and a handwritten note to himself: "Study the Greats to become great." His vocal coach talked about Jackson's range of more than 3 1/2 octaves, and dancers about how he worked into the night to come up with fresh moves for videos starting with "Bad."

"For me there were no discoveries, it reaffirmed what I thought I knew. He worked hard. Michael busted his ass," Lee said.

"Bad25," shown out of competition in Venice, will be released in February, along with another hour of behind-the-scenes footage.

The documentary's final image is taken from film of his famous July 16, 1998 concert at Wembley Stadium in England of the "Bad Tour." Jackson finishes singing "Man in the Mirror" — a song that has become posthumously Jackson's unofficial anthem — and



Director Spike Lee wears a t-shirt bearing a picture of late musician Michael Jackson as he poses during the photo call of the 'Glory To The Filmmaker' award at the 69th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Friday, Aug. 31, 2012.

Associated Press

throws back his arms and head in a final flourish.

"I am not going to say Michael was Jesus Christ," Lee told a news conference at the festival. "But if you

look at the performance, he was somewhere else. That was one of the greatest performances, ever, ever, ever. He is not of this world." □

Museum cat video fest a purr-fect viewing

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis tested the boundaries of legitimate art with a film festival devoted to the online cat videos that pervade YouTube and social networks.

It's not unheard of for some cat videos to rack up as many as 50 million YouTube views. Most are simple: a cat tries and fails to jump into a cardboard box, or makes a ridiculously cute noise while eating a spoonful of sour cream. Some are more cinematic, with tricky angles, animated graph-

ics, mood music and other tricks of the filmmaking trade.

Organizers of Thursday night's festival said they wanted to find out whether the private experience of viewing the videos online would translate to a shared and social experience when shown on an outdoor screen on the museum's grounds.

The festival made room for various kinds of cat videos, with categories for comedy, drama, foreign, animated, musical, art-house and documentary. □



Leroy Bergstrom of Maple Plain, Minn. arrives with his cat Maestro before the Walker Art Center's first "Internet Cat Video Film Festival," showcasing the best of cat films on the Internet in Minneapolis Thursday Aug. 30, 2012. The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis held its first-ever online cat video festival, a compilation of silly cat clips that have become an Internet phenomenon, attracting millions of viewers for some of the videos.

Associated Press

Anti-Obama documentary '2016' surprises film world

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It wasn't backed by any Hollywood movie studio. Reviews were mostly negative. It premiered in Houston, not Los Angeles or New York. And yet despite the unconventional release of "2016:

Obama's America," the movie is now among the most successful political documentaries of all time — and it doesn't show signs of cooling down ahead of the presidential election in November.

The conservative film exploring the roots of President Barack Obama's political views surprised the film industry when it took in \$6.5 million to land at No. 7 at last weekend's domestic box office.

That makes "2016" the most successful conservative documentary of all time. It all adds up to a remarkable triumph for an indie film that circumvented the liberal waters of Hollywood. "2016" is directed by Dinesh



This undated publicity photo released by Rocky Mountain Pictures shows a poster for the documentary film, "2016: Obama's America."

Associated Press

D'Souza, a former staffer for President Ronald Reagan who is now president of King's College in New

York and author of several books, including "The Roots of Obama's Rage."

The book is the basis for "2016," which claims Obama's beliefs are rooted in the anti-colonialism of his late father, a Kenyan academic who was largely absent from the president's life.

Many of the assertions D'Souza makes in the film don't hold up, including that Obama removed a bust of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill from the Oval Office because Churchill represented British colonialism and that Obama has "done nothing" to impede Iran's nuclear ambitions. There are other instances where the film takes liberties with the facts.

While the film's portrait of a gloomy future if Obama is re-elected might make it feel like an hour-and-a-half-long political ad, the "2016" filmmakers said they only received funding from private investors, not the Republican Party, and the

movie's proceeds aren't headed to Republican challenger Mitt Romney's campaign.

Gerald Molen, the producer, added that the film's estimated \$2.5 million budget only came from about two dozen donors supporting D'Souza.

Although "2016" has found fans, most critics haven't been kind.

Newsday's Rafer Guzman called it an "attempt at character assassination." The Los Angeles Times' Betsy Sharkey lambasted "2016" for being a "sluggish film" whose "outrage falls flat."

"I don't necessarily agree with everything that's in the movie," said Arthur Hobbs, who caught a Monday matinee of the film in Los Angeles after reading about it online. "But I do think that we really don't know everything about Obama, even after he's been in office for four years. I think that's why we needed to see this movie." □



Actor Michael Shannon and director Ariel Vromen arrive for the premiere of the film 'The Iceman' 69th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012. Associated Press

Actor Michael Shannon to continue bad guy streak

VENICE, Italy (AP) — U.S. actor Michael Shannon's streak of playing bad guys continues in upcoming Superman film "Man of Steel," in which he plays the superhero's nemesis "General Zod."

Shannon said he nearly "had a seizure" when director Zac Snyder tapped

him for the role.

"I would've never seen that coming in a million years," Shannon told The Associated Press at the Venice Film Festival, where he attended the world premiere Thursday of "The Iceman," in which he plays a real-life Mafia hit man. □

TV's "Starsky" to fight drug charge in Ky.



FILE - This June 3, 2012 file photo shows actor Paul Michael Glaser attending A Time for Heroes celebrity picnic in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — The actor who played David Starsky in the 1970s police drama "Starsky & Hutch" is fighting a drug charge in Kentucky for what he says is medical marijuana from California. The Daily News in Bowling Green reports an attorney entered a not guilty plea on Thursday on behalf of 69-year-old Paul Michael Glaser of Venice, Calif. Bowling Green police charged Glaser with possession of marijuana and a pipe on May 10, hours after he read an excerpt of his young adult novel, "Chrystallia and the Source of Light," to students at a middle school.

According to a police citation, Glaser said he had medical marijuana prescribed to him in California. □

Renovating Mitt Romney



GAIL COLLINS

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TAMPA, Fla. — So, about Mitt Romney.

The Republicans have been holding a convention to nominate him for president! I am telling you this on the off chance that you haven't been paying attention. Perhaps you feel as if you've already met Mitt Romney and don't require another introduction. Perhaps you feel as if you've met him a lot. But this is entirely different because the party's mission this week is to construct an entirely new, improved, warmer, more lovable version.

They built this Romney!

"We built it" is one of the themes here, at the government-underwritten convention in a government-subsidized convention center in a city that rose on the sturdy foundation of government-subsidized flood insurance. But no taxpayer dollars were expended in the attempt to put together a New Mitt.

None. Really, it was just private corporations and rich people.

Even before the speeches began, before Tim Pawlenty compared the president to a tattoo or the governor of Ohio, John Kasich, accused Joe Biden of being a bad golfer, the magnitude of the Romney renovation challenge was clear. This wasn't going to be one of those quickie home makeovers you see on TV, where a couple goes away for the weekend and comes back to discover that they have a large, new picture window and a totally open kitchen floor plan. The folks who spoke during the first two days of the three-day convention were supposed to do foundation work, preparing the public to regard the presidential candidate who emerged on Thursday night as a kindly dad or a favored sibling who's always such great company when you're feeling down.

They failed completely. It was if, instead of fixing up the targeted house, the renovators decided to do some engine work on a recreational vehicle parked three blocks down the road.

Some of the speakers tried to divert the crowd with fancy rhetoric. Who will ever forget the way Paul Ryan said America was getting the runaround and needs a turnaround?

Some tried being counterintuitive. Mike Huckabee, in an interview before his speech, compared Mitt to a nasty doctor.

"If you've just been diagnosed with a brain tumor, you honestly don't care if your neurosurgeon is a jerk," he told Howard Kurtz of The Daily Beast.

The challenge of giving their presidential candidate a heart-warming back story was apparently too much for many of the speakers, who decided to describe their own humble roots instead. Gov. Chris Christie talked about his mother. Ryan brought up his father, mother and grandmother. Rick Santorum told the story about his coal miner grandfather's hands again. Huckabee dropped the names of his grandchildren.

We may never figure out the inner life of the Republican presidential candidate. But we are going into the fall campaign knowing a whole lot more about the relatives of major Republican officeholders.

Ann Romney, poor woman, was left stuck with the entire burden of the convention's yearning for a candidate remake.

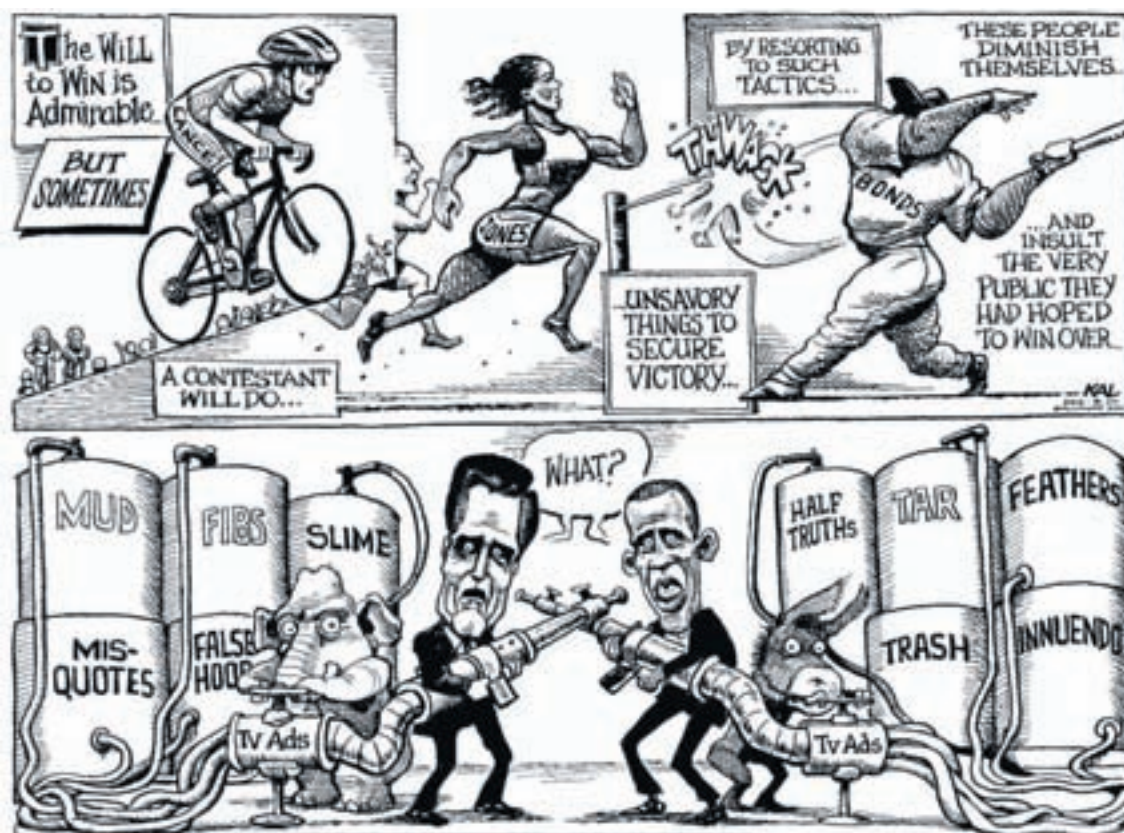
It turns out that her grandfather was a coal miner, too! It is possible that the only person in the entire city of Tampa this week who does not have a coal miner in the family tree is Mitt.

"Tonight I want to talk to you about love," she said. The critical point was that Ann loves Mitt and Mitt loves America. What could be better than that? Then, half an hour later, Christie decreed that respect trumps love. If these people can't even decide where love ranks on their to-do list, you can appreciate why they found it impossible to get together to build a new presidential candidate.

Although she was assigned to paint a picture of the Mitt Romney we have never seen and suspect does not exist, his wife's remarks were remarkably short on specifics. She did have a story about their humble early married life, which involved a brief period in college when they were forced to consume "a lot of pasta and tuna fish."

Ann assured the crowd that her husband had spent "countless hours helping others," and although that was pretty vague, we do have other accounts of his good deeds, mainly for fellow parishioners at church. She also seemed intent on telling us that he's a fun guy, full of Mitwit, but she failed to provide any examples of fun that were actually funny. The take-away image of Mitt Romney, Neighbor, was less George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life" than Ned Flanders in "The Simpsons."

The best humanizing story about a robotic presidential candidate I can remember was the one John Kerry's daughters told about how Kerry had saved their hamster Licorice from a "watery doom" by diving off a dock, retrieving the animal and administering CPR. And, actually, that didn't work out so well. They'll make do with what they've got. One thing's for sure: Nobody in Tampa is all that interested in talking about Mitt Romney interacting with pets. □



Morsi's Wrong Turn



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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I find it very disturbing that one of the first trips by Egypt's newly elected president, Mohammed Morsi, will be to attend the Non-aligned Movement's summit meeting in Tehran this week. Excuse me, President Morsi, but there is only one reason the Iranian regime wants to hold the meeting in Tehran and have heads of state like you attend, and that is to signal to Iran's people that the world approves of their country's clerical leadership and therefore they should never, ever, ever again think about launching a democracy movement — the exact same kind of democracy movement that brought you, Mr. Morsi, to power in Egypt.

In 2009, this Iranian regime literally killed the Green Revolution. It gunned down hundreds and jailed thousands of Iranians who wanted the one thing that Egyptians got: to have their votes counted honestly and the results respected. Morsi, who was brought to power by a courageous democracy revolution that neither he nor his Muslim Brotherhood party started — but who benefited from the free and fair election that followed — is lending his legitimacy to an Iranian regime that brutally crushed just such a movement in Tehran. This does not augur well for Morsi's presidency. In fact, he should be ashamed of himself.

"The Iranian regime has of-

fered Morsi a sanitized tour of its nuclear facilities" noted Karim Sadjadpour, the Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment. "As a former political prisoner in Mubarak's Egypt, Morsi should also request a visit to Tehran's notorious Evin prison. It will remind him of his own past and offer him a glimpse of Iran's future."

Egyptian officials say Morsi is only stopping in Tehran for a few hours to hand over the presidency of the Nonaligned Movement to Iran from Egypt. Really? He could have done that by mail. It would have sent a powerful democratic message. By the way, what is the Nonaligned Movement anymore?

"Nonaligned against what and between whom?" asked Michael Mandelbaum, a foreign policy specialist at Johns Hopkins.

The Nonaligned Movement was conceived at the Bandung summit in 1955, but there was a logic to it then. The world was divided between Western democratic capitalists and Eastern Communists, and developing states like Egypt, Yugoslavia and Indonesia declared themselves "non-aligned" with these two blocs. But "there is no Communist bloc today," Mandelbaum said. "The main division in the world is between democratic and undemocratic countries."

Is Morsi nonaligned in that choice? Is he nonaligned when it comes to choosing between democracies and dictatorships — especially the Iranian one that is so complicit in crushing the Syrian rebellion as well? And by the way, why is Ban Ki-moon, the U.N. secretary-general, lending his hand to this Iranian white-washing festival? What a betrayal of Iranian democrats. This has nothing to do with Israel or Iran's nukes. If Morsi wants to maintain a cold peace with Israel, that is his business. As for Morsi

himself, I'd like to see him succeed in turning Egypt around. It would be a huge boost to democracy in the Arab world. But what Egypt needs most will not be found in Tehran. Morsi's first big trip shouldn't have been to just China and Iran. It should have been all across Europe and Asia to reassure investors and tourists that Egypt is open for business again — and maybe on to Silicon Valley and then Caltech to meet with Egypt's Nobel Prize-winning chemist, Ahmed Zewail, to signal a commitment to reviving education in Egypt, where half the women are illiterate.

If Morsi needs a primer on the democracy movement in Iran (whose Islamic regime broke relations with Egypt in 1979 to protest the peace treaty with Israel) he can read the one offered by Stanford's Iran expert, Abbas Milani, on the U.S. Institute of Peace website: "The Green Movement reached its height when up to 3 million peaceful demonstrators turned out on Tehran streets to protest official claims that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won the 2009 presidential election in a landslide. Their simple slogan was: 'Where is my vote?' ... Over the next six months, the Green Movement evolved from a mass group of angry voters to a nationwide force demanding the democratic rights originally sought in the 1979 revolution, rights that were hijacked by radical clerics. ... As momentum grew behind the Green Movement, the government response was increasingly tough. In the fall of 2009, more than 100 of the Green Movement's most important leaders, activists and theorists appeared in show trials reminiscent of Joseph Stalin's infamous trials in the 1930s." By early 2010, the regime had quashed all public opposition. That is the regime that Morsi will be helping to sanitize. □

After the storm, Mississippi casino is hustling to reopen

KIM SEVERSON

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BILOXI, Miss. — The Gulf Coast woke up and got down to the work of cleaning up from Hurricane Isaac on Friday, heading out under cloudy skies to find groceries and then returning home to fill trash bags and pry plywood from windows.

But here on the floor of the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino, the wheels of fortune spun and the lucky doubled down. The party had already begun the night before.

The 1,740-room hotel and casino, which sits halfway on a barge jutting into the Gulf of Mexico, was the

first of the Biloxi casinos to reopen, welcoming three poker players to a table just before 6 p.m., the last effects of the storm still blowing outside. Six of the 12 casinos on the coast here managed to open by Thursday night, when many businesses were still dark or covered with plywood. The



Ismail Birben, center, playing poker at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino after Hurricane Isaac, in Biloxi, Miss., Aug. 30, 2012.

Sanctioned by: **IBWF**

Caribbean WRESTLING BASH

The Legend Tour

ARUBA

Bas van Kunderen

Velvet Sky

Rhino

Kevin Nash

Rowdy Roddy Piper

Angelina Love

X-Pac

Scott Steiner

Billy Gunn

Jerry the King Lawler

BON DIA Aruba

CARIBBEAN WRESTLING BASH BIG SIGNING EVENT

ON THE PARKING LOT OF BON DIA ARUBA / ARUBA TODAY

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH

FROM 3:00PM TILL 4:30PM

Come and have your picture taken with professional wrestlers like

ROWDY RODDY PIPER HALL OF FAMER • X-PAC SEAN WALTMAN • CODY HALL THE SON OF SCOTT HALL "RAZOR RAMON"

Out of 12 casinos on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Beau Rivage was the first of six casinos that managed to open Thursday night, with the rest reopening Friday as the last effects of Hurricane Isaac were blowing through. (B. Hoffman/The New York Times)

rest opened Friday. Seven years ago, when Hurricane Katrina pulled the Beau Rivage slot machines and craps tables into the ocean, it took \$550 million and a year to reopen. On Thursday, in a feat that seemed as coordinated as a sophisticated military operation, it took just under five hours. When the Mississippi Gaming Commission ordered the casinos to shut down by Tuesday morning — as the slow-moving storm was approaching the coast of Louisiana and Mississippi — they had no choice. The few hundred hotel guests left in the 29-story Beau Rivage were told that they would have to leave by the morning. Immediately, George P. Corchis Jr., the president of regional operations for MGM, started thinking about when to reopen, making repeated calls to the gaming commission, his staff and the meteorologists the company keeps on retainer. Like many people on the Gulf Coast, he woke up early Thursday expecting the storm to be over. But it was still raging outside, and the coastal highway was still partly underwater, so he postponed the decision. But by 1 p.m., he was ready to take the gamble. He would have the doors open before 6 p.m. □